Hafa Adai!

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Doctors suspect vaping behind dozens of lung illnesses. PAGE 9

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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIX, Issue No. 167

www.saipantribune.com | FRIDAY AUGUST 23, 2019 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

Budget calculated 'without austerity'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

» Budget bill moves out of Senate; heads to House

The fiscal year 2020 budget, calculated without any austerity cuts, is a step closer toward enactment after the Senate passed its own version yesterday, identifying over $233.2 million in revenue, of which over $148.8 million is available for appropriation.

Rep. Ivan A. Blanco's (R-Saipan) House Bill 21-64, HD2, SD1 now heads to the House after garnering a vote of 6-1, with Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) as the lone opposer.

Including Department of Public Lands personnel, the budget accounts for a total of 3,500 government employees across the CNMI.

The Public School System's proposed budget of

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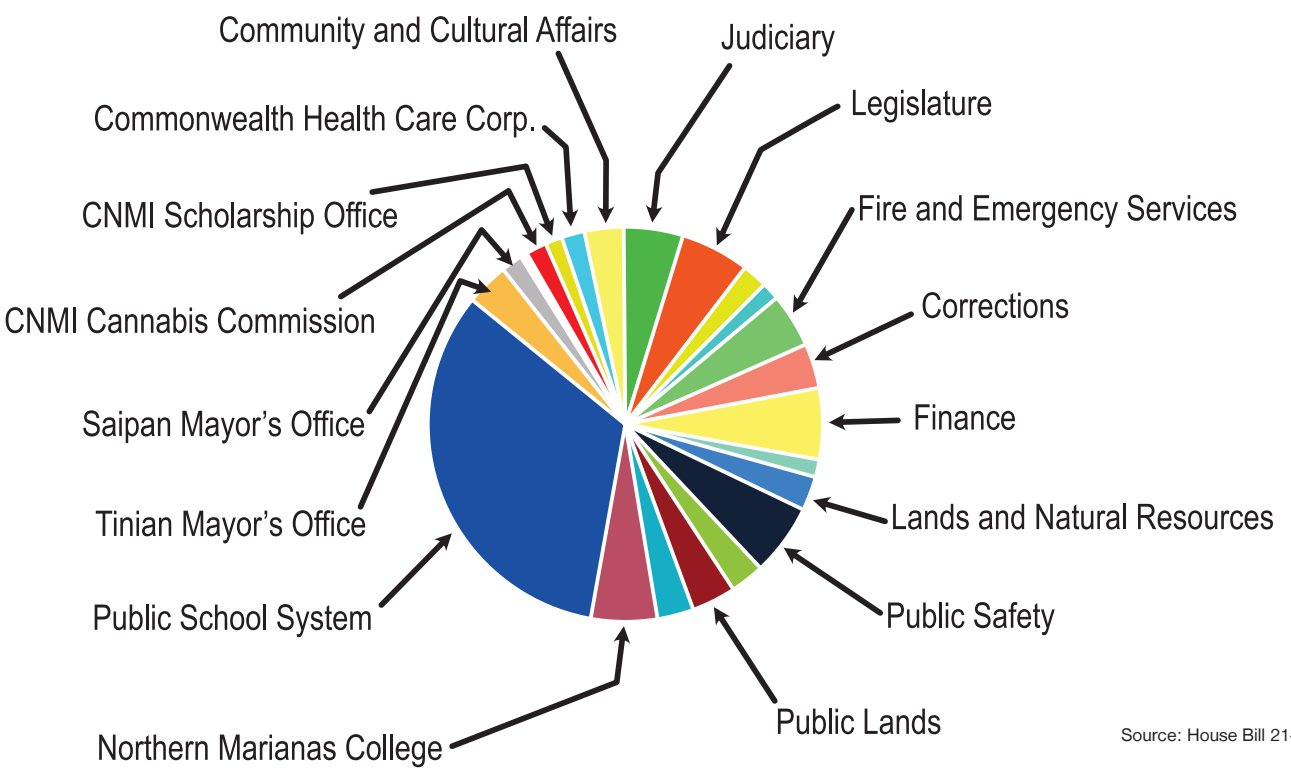
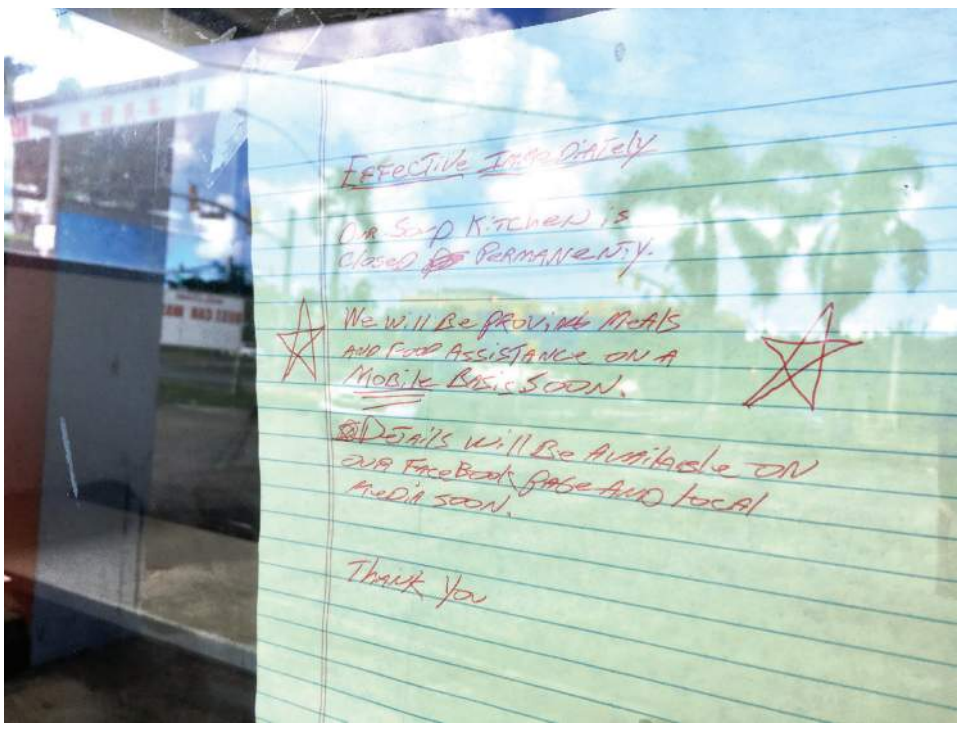


Source: House Bill 21-64



Soup kitchen closed

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Moves to mobile feeding operations

Soon, you won't need to drive to the CNMI Salvation Army in Gualo Rai to get a free meal. The international charitable organization will now deliver food at designated places around the island.

In response to demographic changes, CNMI Salvation Army said it is expanding its mobile feeding program and terminating its fixed-site location, commonly known as its soup kitchen.

The Salvation Army has been operating a mobile feeding program, in addition to its fixed-site soup kitchen, for several years now. As time has passed, though, fewer and fewer cli-

See SOUP on Page 4

Expect to see this note on the door of CNMI Salvation Army in Gualo Rai as it expands its mobile feeding program and terminate its fixed-site location. IVA MAURIN

Zero business at Echo Dock found troubling

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A Commonwealth Ports Authority board member finds it troubling to see zero business activities at the Echo Dock in Lower Base. To remedy this, board member Pete Reyes instructed CPA staff last Friday to dig into its archives to find evidence that Duty Free Shoppers had given up its interest in the property as a concessionaire so that CPA can go in and develop it to attract businesses to the area.

At the Committee on Seaport Facilities meeting last Friday, Reyes, who chairs the committee, said that

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INSIDE

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The American Red Cross wants to make sure your student is safe as they head back to school.
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BUSINESS
Unbeknownst to many, Shirley's Coffee Shop, known for its fried rice, also has a catering service.
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If you're a "Friends" superfan, celebrate the show's 25th anniversary in September.
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Local

Read-Aloud with Motheread/Fatheread tomorrow

The CNMI's longest-serving literacy program, Motheread/Fatheread, will be having a Special Read-Aloud and Story Exploring Class at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library tomorrow, Aug. 24, from 10am to 11:30am.

National trainers and literary specialists Evelyn Machtinger and Gwendolyn Hinton will facilitate the class, using a curriculum designed for use with children up to 11 years old.

The community-based program teaches both parent and children to have fun learning as they develop reading skills through children's literature. The program also allows for the exploration of family issues.

Aside from the special class on Saturday, the library is also calling on all book lovers to check out their newly catalogued books, which include travel guidebooks, spiritual books, and new McNaughton fiction books.

Motheread/Fatheread is a nationally acclaimed community-based program administered in the CNMI by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council, in partnership with the CNMI Public School System and the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

For those interested to take part in the next free adult courses with Motheread/Fatheread, visit the library or call program coordinators Beth Demapan at 235-7323 (READ)/783-7678 or e-mail cnmimotheread@gmail.com. ***(Iva Maurin)***

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'Temporary Hopwood campus inappropriate'

By MARC A. VENUS
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Admiral Herbert G. Middle School Parent-Teacher Association president Rosalie Litulumar presents the PTSA's letter to the CNMI State Board of Education's Capital Improvement Projects & Public School System Property standing committee and Education Commissioner Glenn Muña yesterday during the committee meeting yesterday at the BOE office on Capital Hill. MARC A. VENUS

Parents of students attending the Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Middle School said its temporary campus beside the Koblerville Elementary School is unsuitable for their children.

The school's Parent-Teacher Student Association raised their concerns yesterday in a letter read by PTSA president Rosalie Litulumar during a meeting of the Board of Education's Capital Improvement Projects & Public School System Property Committee at the CNMI BOE office.

Reading the letter, Litulumar said the PTSA is concerned about the current status of the children attending the temporary campus in Koblerville. Hopwood's campus in Chalan Piao was destroyed during the onslaught of Super Typhoon Yutu in October 2018.

"We appreciate the fact that a few months after Super Typhoon Yutu hit and caused damage to our old campus… a temporary campus was built for our children to have access to full-day instructions," she said.

However, the PTSA deems the temporary campus "inappropriate for young children" since it lacks facilities that would create a safe environment for children that is conducive to learning.

They pointed out that the temporary campus lacks a stage, sports and recreational areas, restrooms, and other facilities. Another concern is the lack of covered walkways, on contrast to the old campus.

If necessary, the group is willing to work with the CIP committee and PSS to do several fundraising activities to assist with the renovations and rebuilding of the damaged campus.

"It is very alarming that, up to this date, we have not seen any improvement or development on the renovation and rebuilding of the old campus [in] Chalan Piao," Litulumar said.

Hopwood principal Dr. Rizalina Liwag told the CIP committee that the Hopwood campus has a total of 35 classrooms, with 19 classrooms being functional. She suggested to the committee and to Education Commissioner Glenn Muña the possibility of conducting double session classes at Hopwood using these classrooms.

Liwag also told the committee that the school currently has 890 students registered to date; she expects the number to grow in the coming days. Classes will begin on Sept. 3.

PSS expects $24 million from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the repair and renovation of the Hopwood campus. The project is currently on hold as PSS is waiting for FEMA's approval on the project worksheet for the campus.

Muña turned down the idea of having double sessions at the Hopwood campus, saying he wants to avoid having more schools undergoing double sessions. He would rather meet with the PTSA and Liwag to talk about their plans for the future of the campus and its renovations.

Five schools will be having double sessions this new school year: Oleai Elementary School, San Vicente Elementary School, Francisco M. Sablan Middle School, William S. Reyes School, and the Koblerville Elementary School.

The CIP committee consists of BOE board members Herman Atalig and MaryLou Ada, BOE chair Janice Tenorio, and BOE teacher representative Paul Miura.

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Hocog is acting governor

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Senate President Victor B. Hocog (R-Saipan) is back in familiar seat as acting governor, with both Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios off-island on official business.

Torres is headed to Palau at the invitation of Palau President Tommy Remengasau Jr. to attend the funeral of former Palau president Thomas Remengasau Sr.

Palacios, on the other hand, has meetings at the U.S. Embassy in Japan to promote the CNMI as an "American destination for Japanese investments and tourism," according to press secretary Kevin Bautista.

"[Yesterday, Palacios] met with U.S. Department of Commerce International Trade Administration officials and the Japan Association of Travel Agents to discuss further partnerships to increase Japanese tourism arrivals and investment, both of which remain key goals of this administration's economic strategy to revitalize the Japan market's presence," Bautista said in a statement.

Palacios was also scheduled to meet with Japan-based airline Skymark Airlines Inc. officials "to reinforce the partnership between the Japanese carrier and the CNMI. Saipan is one of Skymark's first international routes, and joint planning is being done to ensure their long-term viability within the Marianas," Bautista told *Saipan Tribune*.

"…This administration looks forward to working with Skymark to make this goal a reality as they plan out their regular scheduled flights," he said, adding that the airline is prioritized as a "key partner" to the Japanese market revitalization.

With Hocog temporarily at the helm of the CNMI Executive Branch, he appointed Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) yesterday as acting Senate president until Palacios' return on Sunday, Aug. 25, 2019, when the lieutenant governor will take over the helm until Torres comes back.

The Senate yesterday resumed session, which was on recess since Wednesday afternoon after a closed-door bipartisan leadership discussion on the fiscal year 2020 budget.

The Senate ultimately passed the fiscal year 2020 budget with Hofschneider presiding the session in the stead of Hocog.

Hocog served as Torres' lieutenant governor when the latter took over the unfinished term of former governor Eloy S. Inos, who died in office in 2015.

Inmate's motion to reconsider dismissal of due process violation claim is denied

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood has denied an inmate's motion to reconsider her dismissal of his claim that a Superior Court judge's partial recusal from his case violated his right to due process.

Tydingco-Gatewood ruled that inmate Anthony Rios has not established that the CNMI Supreme Court's decision in his case was contrary to clearly established federal law.

Tydingco-Gatewood said the Superior Court judge's partial recusal did not violate Rios' right to due process, as determined by the U.S. Supreme Court. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

BUDGET

From Page 1

$37.71 million satisfies the constitutional mandate of 25% of the CNMI general funds, minus the earmarks.

This comes soon after several days of back-and-forth discussions between members of the House and Senate in an effort to avert going into a conference committee, which is only activated when the two chambers of the Legislature fail to see eye-to-eye on the bill.

Responding to a question raised by Manglona whether there are austerity measures embedded in the new budget bill, Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan) pointed out that the austerity measures that are currently in place are based on the current fiscal year.

"This budget is a balanced budget in consultation with the governor and the House, so we do not believe that there should be any form of austerity," said Igisomar, who is a member of the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee that reviewed the budget bill.

"…The austerity was put in place because the current [fiscal year 2019] budget was low on revenue resources and, in our consultations with the secretary of Finance, he assured us that the source of revenue resources is available for this current budget we are passing," he added. "Everything in this budget is based on normal government operation hours."

Manglona attempted to insert two amendments to the bill but they were not seconded and could not move forward and were not entertained.

Future tweaks

The budget bill this year took into consideration the enactment of H.R. 2328, which effectively allows the CNMI to receive all of its federal Medicaid reimbursement funds for fiscal year 2020. These funds amount to over $5.3 million.

Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), who also chairs the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee, told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview that should H.R. 2328 become law, the $5.3 million for the CNMI Medicaid program reimbursement will automatically go to PSS.

"We are very concerned with PSS and we wanted to support [the state education agency]," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Among some other tweaks the Senate approved were changes to the upcoming $2.5 million from the Commonwealth Worker Fund as provided in U.S. Public Law 115-218. This is also known as the CW fee funds.

The Senate passed amendments to allocate $1.3 million from the CW fee funds to the newly created Northern Marianas Technical Institute, provided that NMTI offer classes on Rota and Tinian through both islands' high schools.

Some $600,000 of the CW fee funds goes to PSS for its Career and Technical Education Program in high schools; $500,000 goes to the Northern Marianas College for vocational education, apprenticeships, or other training programs provided that $50,000 of the funds allocated to NMC shall be used for the college's nursing program equipment and supplies; and the remaining $100,000 goes to the Department of Commerce, Statistics Division for the CNMI prevailing wage study.

U.S. P.L. 115-218 specifically stated that the funds collected from the CW fees shall only fund vocational education programs, apprenticeships, or other training programs for training future U.S. workers.

The CNMI Cannabis Commission, which has yet to be completed, was appropriated $551,479.

Several other agencies, including the Commonwealth Health Care Corp., PSS, the Northern Marianas College, and the Department of Public Safety also receive appropriations for this fiscal year from sources outside of the general fund. These outside sources include the Compact Impact fund, Tobacco Settlement Funds, and more.

"I thank the members of the Senate FA committee as well as the members of the Senate who supported the budget bill," Hofschneider said. "I look forward to the House speaker and the membership of the House in accepting the Senate draft so that we can move ahead in transmitting the budget bill for [enactment]."

House Speaker Blas Jonathan "BJ" Attao (R-Saipan) told *Saipan Tribune* that he appreciates the Senates fast action on the budget bill.

"I appreciate the fact that the…members of the FA committee took the time to wrap up the budget at the soonest that they can and the Senate got the budget out of their body for our review at a timely manner, so we can go from there and get it to the governor…for action in the coming weeks," he noted, adding that there was still "ample time" for Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to review the budget.

Torres is given by the CNMI Constitution up to 20 days to review the budget. Hofschneider is confident that a final budget will be at the governor's desk before the deadline of Sept. 30, 2019.

SOUP

From Page 1

ents have been eating onsite.

"At the beginning, most clients came to the soup kitchen, but for the last several years, fewer clients have been eating there. We have been providing roughly the same number of meals but mostly on a mobile basis," said ministry leader pastor Wayne Gillespie.

The Salvation Army is adapting to this change by closing its soup kitchen and moving to a 100% mobile feeding model.

It posted a sign about this change at its soup kitchen's door in Gualo Rai.

"Please note that we will still continue to provide the same number of meals," said Gillespie.

Deliveries will be made at strategic sites and will be on a drive or walk-up basis. Clients will simply drive or walk up, take their meals and travel back home to eat them. The drop-off locations will be announced soon.

In connection to this new mobile feeding model, the Salvation Army also needs public assistance with one of their delivery vehicles. "We have a vehicle that needs engine repairs. We are hoping that someone with the appropriate skills will step forward and help us get this unit back on the road," said Gillespie.

The Salvation Army is also appealing to businesses, churches, civic groups, or individuals who might be interested in sponsoring or helping to sponsor the vehicle (fuel, maintenance, etc.).

For anyone who can help with engine repair, would want to sponsor the vehicle, or for additional information about the Salvation Army, contact Gillespie at 483-0885.

ZERO

From Page 1

even one document or communication showing DFS' lack of interest in the property would be enough for CPA to legally allow work on the Echo Dock.

"We have a piece of prime property that's sitting there and doing nothing. And it is troubling for me to continue driving past that area and see that no activities are happening," he said.

Saipan Tribune was still awaiting comments from DFS as of press time yesterday.

The committee's discussion last Friday homed in on the Echo Dock after CPA received letters from various companies expressing an interest in leasing the property.

CPA's in-house legal counsel, Joseph Hallahan, pointed out, though, that it would be prudent to first meet with DFS about this possible concession right at Saipan seaport, since DFS holds the master concession and all other agreements that are within the master concession.

If it is determined that DFS has exclusive concession rights at Echo Dock, a request-for-proposal cannot be awarded until DFS no longer retains those concession rights, Hallahan said.

One option would be to proceed with an RFP that includes concession operations, he said. CPA management should be directed to determine the scope of concession and evaluation plan, so proposals that include concession operations may be submitted.

Another option is to proceed with the RFP and restrict proposals to non-concession operations.

In an interview later, Reyes said an investor that is interested in the Echo Dock property has already submitted a "very attractive" proposal.

Reyes said CPA, however, would need to do an RFP and they need to determine whether they have the ability to do that because of DFS' possible rights under the concession agreement.

Reyes said DFS' concession has already expired but CPA has not selected a new concessionaire yet.

Reyes said the conditions of the agreement under that concession allows DFS to have full control of beverages, sales of food and beverage, advertisement and so forth.

"But it appears that, at least from legal standpoint, we cannot [issue] an RFP…until we RFP out the airport concession because that was re-bundled and Duty Free continues to have that control," he said.

Reyes said the master concession agreement with DFS is not only with the Saipan airport and seaport, but also seaports and airports on Tinian and Rota.

Reyes said that, according to some CPA board members, DFS has indicated its disinterest in both Rota and Tinian airports and seaports.

He said some members stated that DFS also declined its interest in the Saipan seaport.

"We are hoping that that could be clarified," Reyes said.

An issue raised at the meeting was the fisherman's restaurant that Mariano Falig used to operate at the East Dock. "Did we get a waiver from DFS to allow him open up a restaurant?" Reyes asked CPA staff. "If there was no complication on the award to build a fisherman's restaurant there, why it is now an issue?"

A CPA staff said they don't recall getting a waiver.

Reyes suggested to CPA management to research the application that Falig submitted to CPA and how that transformed into granting a lease agreement.

CPA board vice chair Roman Tudela said it bothers him every time he hears about the need for CPA to get Duty Free's consent.

"If you look at the record, we should be able to find some indication that, at the onset of this master concession, DFS indicated that they have no interest [with] the seaport. They have no interest establishing a concession [on] Tinian and Rota, as well as the commuter [terminal]," Tudela said.

Tudela said there should be something in the CPA file that they can find "to that effect."

Tudela said they should look back at CPA's record as there must be a communication there indicating that they have no interest in the port and they don't want to establish any concession there.

Reyes said the troubling thing is that Duty Free did not step in to claim its rights when Falig was running a restaurant at the seaport.

"So, it raises an issue in my mind that, perhaps, they understand that they are not interested in those areas. I still ask that we go back to our archives and check," Reyes said.

Anti-drug task force arrests 3

The CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force arrested three individuals last Wednesday, Aug. 21, based on separate arrest warrants

Bail was set at $100,000 each for Joseph Torres White, Marwin Borja Camacho, and Paul Anthony Lizama.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho signed the arrest warrant for the three suspects on Wednesday, Aug. 21, at approximately 10:26am.

White

Camacho

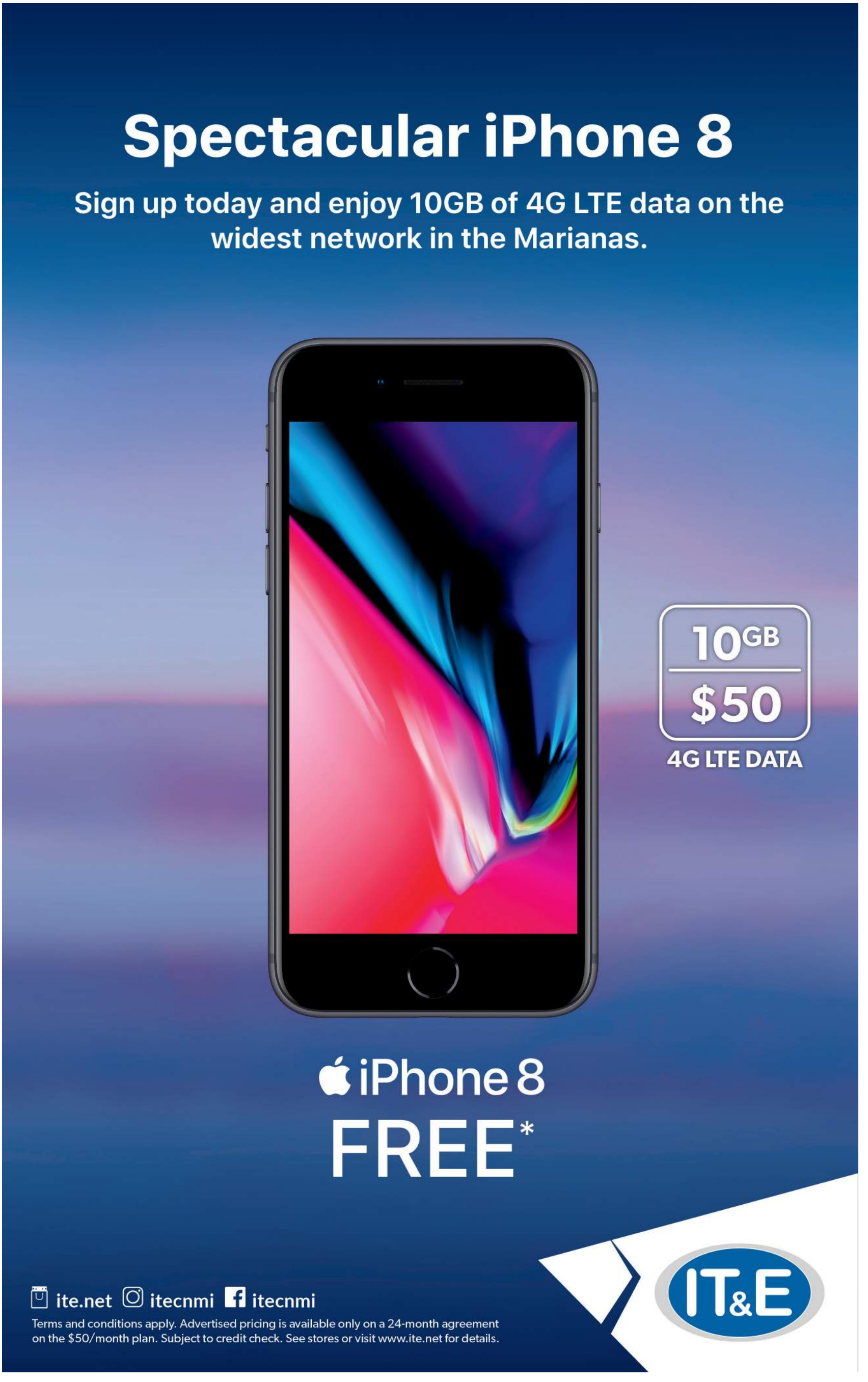
Lizama

On the same day at about 12:31pm, White was found at his home, served with the warrant, and arrested.

At approximately 12:52pm, Marwin Borja Camacho was found at his house, served with the arrest warrant, and arrested.

At about 1:40pm, Lizama was located at a business establishment's parking lot in Garapan, served with the warrant, and arrested.

The three suspects are facing charges of Illegal possession of a controlled substance, and trafficking of a controlled substance, commonly known as the drug "ice." ***(PR)***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Training participants pose for a group photo with Guam's 94th Civil Support Team instructors after the training. HSEM

First responders undergo specialized hazmat training

The CNMI Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management under the Office of the Governor is gearing up for the CNMI's only biological, nuclear full-scale exercise Konfitma by hosting a series of training opportunities related to building an agency's capabilities and improving personnel skillsets.

For the past two days, first responders from the Commonwealth Ports Authority, Division of Customs, the Department of Commerce (Alcohol, Beverage, and Tobacco Control Unit), the CNMI Judiciary (marshals), the Mariana Regional Fusion Center NODE and HSEM participated in a two-day training covering basic awareness of hazardous material handling and site characteristics of clandestine lab processes versus use of non-traditional lab ware in order to distinguish the differences between chemical, biological, and home-made explosive collection.

Participants also underwent hands-on training focusing on lessons learned from lectures conducted during the first half of the first day. Hands-on lab demonstrations were held on the second half of the first and second days where participants learned how to identify and collect possible chemical reactants and how to process them for safekeeping by demonstrating strategies rendering the less amount of harm to themselves, other first responders, bystanders and the environment. The practice of using crockpots and mason jars in lieu of traditional lab ware such as heaters and round-bottom glass flasks were also demonstrated during lab training.

CNMI Customs officer Jennifer Deleon Guerrero uses a non-traditional lab ware technique to test for radiation. HSEM

A harmful example involving the use of non-traditional lab ware occurred during last year's "shake and bake" incident when crystal methamphetamine, commonly known as "ice," was apprehended by responding personnel. During the incident, responders experienced nausea followed by vomiting after an unknown substance was found in the backpack of a suspect attempting to flee the scene.

The main intent of the training was to build confidence within first responders in their abilities to distinguish and differentiate certain lab processes constructed with non-traditional lab ware.

"We're doing this because it is a great force-multiplier… for us to build relationships and partnerships not just with military personnel but with the civilian workforce as well," said Guam Army National Guard's SFC Ivan G. Castro. "With Saipan being the closest to Guam, it puts us in a better position to work together by building that readiness posture and inter-agency cohesion so that, in the event we have to assist with responding in the CNMI, responding agencies will be able to conduct assessment prior to our arrival. We hope to eventually bring this training to the CNMI on a quarterly basis. We're grateful to be afforded the opportunity to work hand-in-hand with the CNMI, and look forward to Konfitma."

The training was conducted by Guam's 94th Civil Support Team composed of members of the Guam Army National Guard and the U. S. Air Force, and instructed by Castro and TSgt. Brandon S. Santos.

HSEM's Konfitma is tentatively scheduled for February 2020. ***(PR)***

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SUN: Sunday Brunch Reg. $32 Ad/$16 Ch Local Price Available
MON: Seafood Night Reg. $40 Ad/$20 Ch Local Price Available
WED: Buffet Lunch Reg. $22 Ad/$11 Ch Local Price Available; Seafood Night Reg. $40 Ad/$$20 Ch Local Price Available
FRI: Buffet Lunch Reg. $22 Ad/$11 Ch Local Price Available; Seafood Night Reg. $40 Ad/$$20 Ch Local Price Available
SAT: Seafood Night Reg. $40 Ad/ $20 Ch Local Price Available
RESTAURANT TROPICANA
Brunch: 11:00am-2:00pm | Dinner Buffet: 6:00pm-9:00pm | Adult: 12 yrs and up | Child: 6-11 yrs | Infant: 5 yrs and under
RESTAURANT DOLPHIN
(10th floor of Crystal Tower in Grandvrio Resort Saipan)
Opening: Everyday Lunch: 11:30am-2:00pm
Last Order: 1:30pm
Dinner 5:30pm-9:00pm | Last Order: 8:30pm
Starlight BBQ
Dinner Buffet: 5:30pm-9pm
Menu: "All you can eat & drink"
Beers, red & white wine, champagne, soft drinks, oolong tea and juices.
Reg. $43 / Child $21 (Local $32 / Child $16)
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Garden
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For reservation or inquiry, please call: 670-237-2527 or E-mail: food.beverage@grandvrio-saipan.com

Vietnam-based Israel's emergency motion is denied

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona denied yesterday Vietnam-based lawyer Barry J. Israel's motion to suspend the scheduling order deadlines for him and another lawyer in Junior Larry Hillbroom's lawsuit.

Manglona said it is within the court's inherent power to "manage its own affairs so as to achieve the orderly and expeditious disposition of cases."

However, the judge said, it is not her practice to press pause on scheduling orders simply because a dispositive motion is pending before the court.

"Such an order would necessarily result in delays that would impact the November trial date if the decision on the dispositive motion does not dispose of the case," Manglona said.

Israel, through counsel Theodore W. Frank, filed yesterday the emergency motion, to ask the court to suspend the scheduling order deadlines until his and lawyer David J. Lujan's pending motions are ruled upon by the court.

The first motion is Israel's request to dismiss Hillbroom's lawsuit for lack of federal jurisdiction, that is set for a hearing on Sept. 19.

The second motion is Lujan's amended motion to suspend proceedings owing to Hillbroom's alleged fugitive status. The hearing date on this request is pending.

Frank said if either of these two motions are granted, they will dispose of the action.

Therefore, Frank said, while these two motions are pending, it is reasonable that the parties avoid incurring expenses that may be for naught and/or wasteful—should either motion be granted.

"Such relief benefits all parties, as each party would otherwise have to incur trial preparation expenses with the Nov. 19, 2019, trial rapidly approaching," Frank said.

Hillbroom is suing Israel and Lujan for allegedly conspiring with former trustee Keith Waibel to inflate their contingency fee when the fortune of the late DHL co-founder Larry Hillblom was still undergoing probate proceedings in the Superior Court. Israel and Lujan have denied the allegations.

Hillbroom is one of the four DNA-proven children of Hillblom. His name is spelled differently from that of Hillblom.

Hillblom died in a seaplane crash off Anathan waters on May 21, 1995. His body was never recovered.

Brilliant Star welcomes Beyer as new principal

The Brilliant Star Montessori School is celebrating its 20th year in the CNMI this year by welcoming a new principal, Steven Beyer, who will be replacing the school's former head, Richard Sikkel.

Beyer is not new to Brilliant Star, having taught at the school on diverse subjects such as science, math, art, English, music, and robotics. He also coached multiple interscholastic sports.

Before leaving Brilliant Star, Sikkel was the school's principal since 2010 and a coach of the school's interscholastic sports teams.

Brilliant Star uses the internationally recognized Montessori curriculum, which focuses on student-driven learning. It offers small class sizes, a teacher's aide in each classroom, Mandarin language incorporated along with English instruction, and much more.

The school's demographics range from local Chamorro families, to students of African, Asian, European, and North American ethnicities.

The school is a non-profit organization since January 2000 and is a recipient of many Educational Tax Credit donations. The donations help give financial support to the students from low-income families, capital improvements, and support for its staff.

For more information or to schedule a tour, contact the Brilliant Star School at (670) 323-7827 (STAR) or visit the school's website at www.brilliantstarmontessori.org. ***(Marc A. Venus)***

CANNABIS LEGALIZATION
Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, foreground, signs into law House Bill 21-13, as lawmakers and other officials look on at the Office of the Governor's conference room. The new law amends the current law on the legalization of cannabis in the CNMI. ERWIN ENCINARES

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Back-to-school safety tips

School bells will be calling students back to the classroom soon and the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter wants to make sure your student is safe as they head back to school for the upcoming year.

"While safety is a top priority for all students, there are special steps for parents of younger kids and those headed to school for the first time," said J.D. Tenorio, disaster program manager of the ARC-NMI Chapter. "Make sure the child knows their phone number, how to get in touch with their parents at work, how to get in touch with another trusted adult and how to dial 911. Teach children not to talk to strangers or accept rides from someone they don't know."

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

- If children ride a bus to school, they should plan to get to their bus stop early and stand away from the curb while waiting for the bus to arrive. Cross the street at the corner, obey traffic signals and stay in the crosswalk.
- Never dart out into the street or cross between parked cars.
- Teach your student to board the bus only after it has come to a complete stop and the driver or attendant has instructed them to get on.
- Kids should board their bus only, never an alternate one.
- Make sure your student always stays in clear view of the bus driver and never walks behind the bus.

GETTING TO SCHOOL BY CAR, BIKE, ON FOOT

- If children go to school in a car, they should always wear a seat belt. Younger children should use car seats or booster seats until the lap-shoulder belt fits properly (typically for children ages 8-12 and over 4'9"), and ride in the back seat until they are at least 13 years old.
- If a teenager is going to drive to school, parents should mandate that they use seat belts. Drivers should not text or make calls use their cell phone and should avoid eating or drinking while driving.
- Some students ride their bike to school. They should always wear a helmet and ride on the right in the same direction as the traffic is going.
- When children are walking to school, they should only cross the street at an intersection, and use a route along which the school has placed crossing guards. Parents should walk young children to school, along with children taking new routes or attending new schools, at least for the first week to ensure they know how to get there safely. Arrange for the kids to walk to school with a friend or classmate.

DRIVERS, SLOW DOWN!

Drivers should be aware that children are out walking or biking to school and slow down, especially in residential areas and school zones. Motorists should know what the yellow and red bus signals mean. Yellow flashing lights indicate the bus is getting ready to stop and motorists should slow down and be prepared to stop. Red flashing lights and an extended stop sign indicate the bus is stopped and children are getting on or off.

Motorists must stop when they are behind a bus, meeting the bus or approaching an intersection where a bus is stopped. Motorists following or traveling alongside a school bus must also stop until the red lights have stopped flashing, the stop arm is withdrawn, and all children have reached safety. This includes two and four-lane highways. If physical barriers such as grassy medians, guide rails or concrete median barriers separate oncoming traffic from the bus, motorists in the opposing lanes may proceed without stopping. Do not proceed until all the children have reached a place of safety.

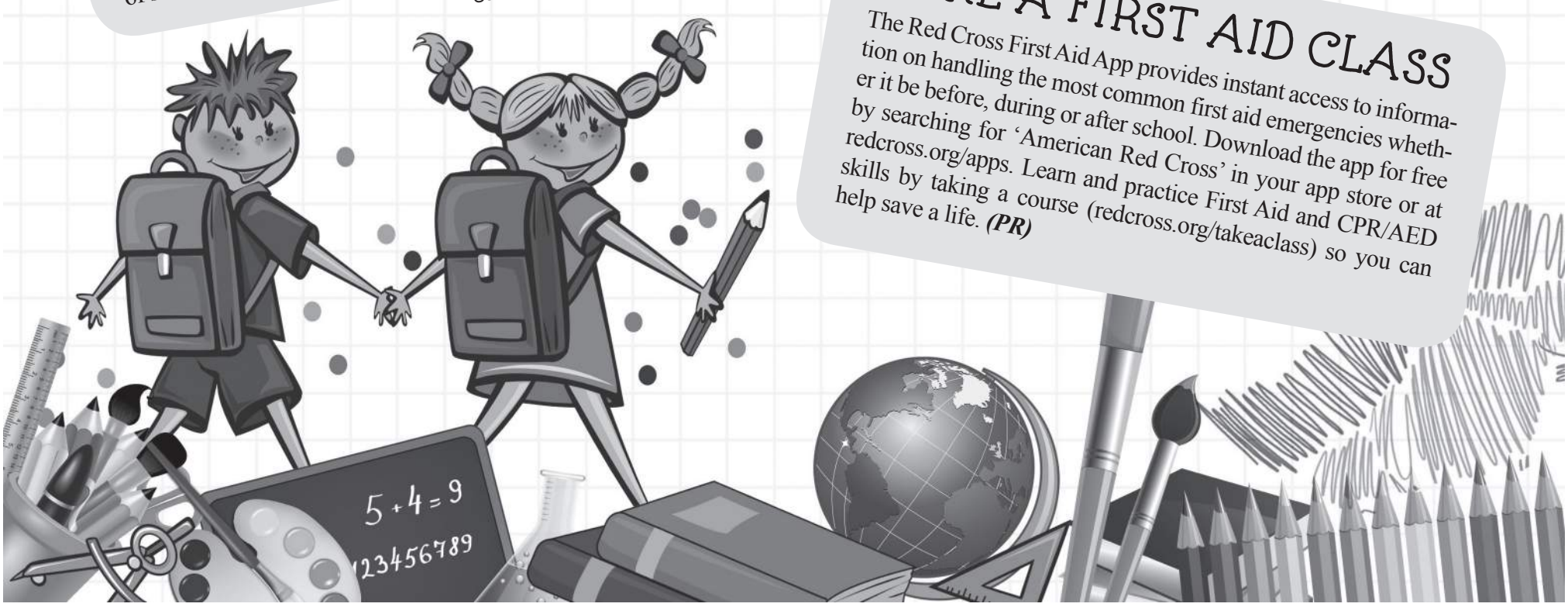
PREPARE FOR EMERGENCIES

Know what the emergency plan is at your child's school in case a disaster or an unforeseen event occurs. Develop a family emergency plan so everyone will know who to contact and where to go if something happens while children are at school and parents are at work. Details are available at redcross.org/prepare.

TAKE A FIRST AID CLASS

The Red Cross First Aid App provides instant access to information on handling the most common first aid emergencies whether it be before, during or after school. Download the app for free by searching for 'American Red Cross' in your app store or at redcross.org/apps. Learn and practice First Aid and CPR/AED skills by taking a course (redcross.org/takeaclass) so you can help save a life. ***(PR)***

Source: American Red Cross-NMI Chapter



Doctors suspect vaping behind dozens of lung illnesses

By MIKE STOBB
AP MEDICAL WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—As many as 50 people in at least six states have come down with breathing illnesses that may be linked to e-cigarettes or other vaping products.

No deaths have been reported, but at least a few have come close.

Some patients have likened onset of the illness to a heart attack, and others to the flu. Symptoms have included shortness of breath, fatigue, chest pain and vomiting. Doctors say the illnesses resemble an inhalation injury, with the body apparently reacting to a caustic substance that someone breathed in.

Dr. Melodi Pirzada, a pediatric lung specialist at NYU Winthrop Hospital in New York, said she's seen two cases this summer—one of them an athletic 18-year-old who almost died.

"We're all baffled," Pirzada said. The only common factor was they had been vaping, she said.

Wisconsin health officials on Thursday said they're seen 15 confirmed cases, with another 15 illnesses under investigation. New York state officials are investigating 10, Illinois has seen at least six, and Minnesota doctors this week said they have four more. California and Indiana have also been looking into reported illnesses.

Health officials have only been counting certain lung illnesses in which the person had vaped within three months. Most are teens, but some adult cases have also been reported. No single vaping device or liquid is associated with the illnesses.

Dylan Nelson, a 26-year-old Wisconsin man, went to see a doctor when he first became ill. He has asthma, was diagnosed with pneumonia and was treated and released.

Within a few days, he could barely breathe. He went to a hospital and was put on a breathing tube. His two brothers kept a round-the-clock vigil over him in the ensuing days, and at one point one called his mother to the hospital, saying: "Mom, I don't think he's going to make it. ... He can't die without his mom."

He rallied and was released from the hospital late last month.

But "he still has lung damage and heart damage," and doctors still don't know how much they'll heal, said his mother, Kim Barnes of Burlington, Wisconsin.

Electronic cigarettes have been described as a less dangerous alternative to regular cigarettes, but health officials have been worried about kids using them. Most of the concern has focused on nicotine, which health officials say is harmful to developing brains and might make kids more likely to take up cigarettes.

But some vaping products have been found to contain other potentially harmful substances, including flavoring chemicals and oils used for vaping marijuana, experts say.

Wisconsin officials did do not know the names of the products the sick people had vaped, but added they could include several substances, including nicotine and THC—the main active chemical in marijuana.

Dr. Anne Griffiths, a lung specialist who saw all four of the reported Minnesota cases, said each had vaped different products.

"I really do think the primary cause of these illnesses is what's been inhaled," said Griffiths, of Children's Minnesota.

Among the many questions: Why are cases only surfacing now, when e-cigarettes have been around for years and are now being used by more than 10 million Americans?

It's possible illnesses previously weren't recognized as being related to vaping, Griffiths said. She said she found several similar case reports published in medical journals.

"My sense is this isn't new. It's new that we're recognizing it," she said.

CDC says vaping may lead to lung diseases

A recently released clinical notice from the Centers for Disease Control Prevention indicate several cases of persons using e-cigarettes/vapes developing severe diseases.

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. received a notice from the CDC and, according to CHCC spokesperson Zoe Travis, these cases have been reported in Wisconsin, Illinois, California, New York, Indiana, and Utah.

CHCC urges e-cigarette/vape users who develop respiratory symptoms, including cough, shortness of breath, and fatigue to immediately see a doctor. If the doctor suspects symptoms related to e-cigarette/vaping use, further testing will be conducted such as chest x-rays or computed tomography, or CT chest scans for further evaluation.

CHCC urges those who know someone using e-cigarettes/vapes and would like to quit to contact the CHCC's Division of Public Health, Tobacco Prevention and Control Program at (670) 323-7848 (QUIT). Travis said that staff are there to take calls from 7:30am to 4:30pm on weekdays, except on holidays. Interested clients can call and leave a message at any time and a staff member will always get back to them. ***(Marc A. Venus)***

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PATA Micronesia finishes tri-annual meeting in Kosrae

KOROR, Palau—The 2nd Tri-annual Meeting of the Pacific Asia Travel Association-Micronesia Chapter was held on Aug. 6-8, 2019, in Kosrae.

Dozens of members representing national and state tourism offices of Micronesia, representatives of travel trade and other businesses, elected officials, and private individuals gathered for the organization's meeting.

The meeting opened on Aug. 6, 2019, with a day of tours. Participants received a free boat tour around the island. Additional available tours and activities included a tour of Lelu Ruins, the 14th century home of kings and village chiefs; Tafunsak Gorge Waterfall Tour; Utwe Biosphere Reserve; Teniwak Japanese tunnels; and green banana paper production. Hikes were also offered to Mt. Oma and Menke Ruins, an ancient temple dedicated to the breadfruit goddess. A welcoming reception that evening was hosted by Kosrae Governor's Office.

Chapter committee meetings were held the following day at Kosrae Nautilus Resort. Education Committee chair Denise Mendiola reported on upcoming trainings for customer service, food handling/safety and "training the trainer" within the region.

Cultural, Heritage & Environment Committee chair Rita Nauta reported on the integration of cultural, heritage and environment into upcoming training by the Education Committee; the Micronesian Milestones historical timeline in Guampedia.com; and development of a Micronesian brand emphasizing seafaring and storytelling.

Chapter member and historian Tony Ramirez also explained the importance of historic and cultural interpretation for tour guides.

Marketing Committee vice chair Luciano Abraham reported on upcoming international and regional events and the chapter's social platforms and official website MicronesiaTour.com.

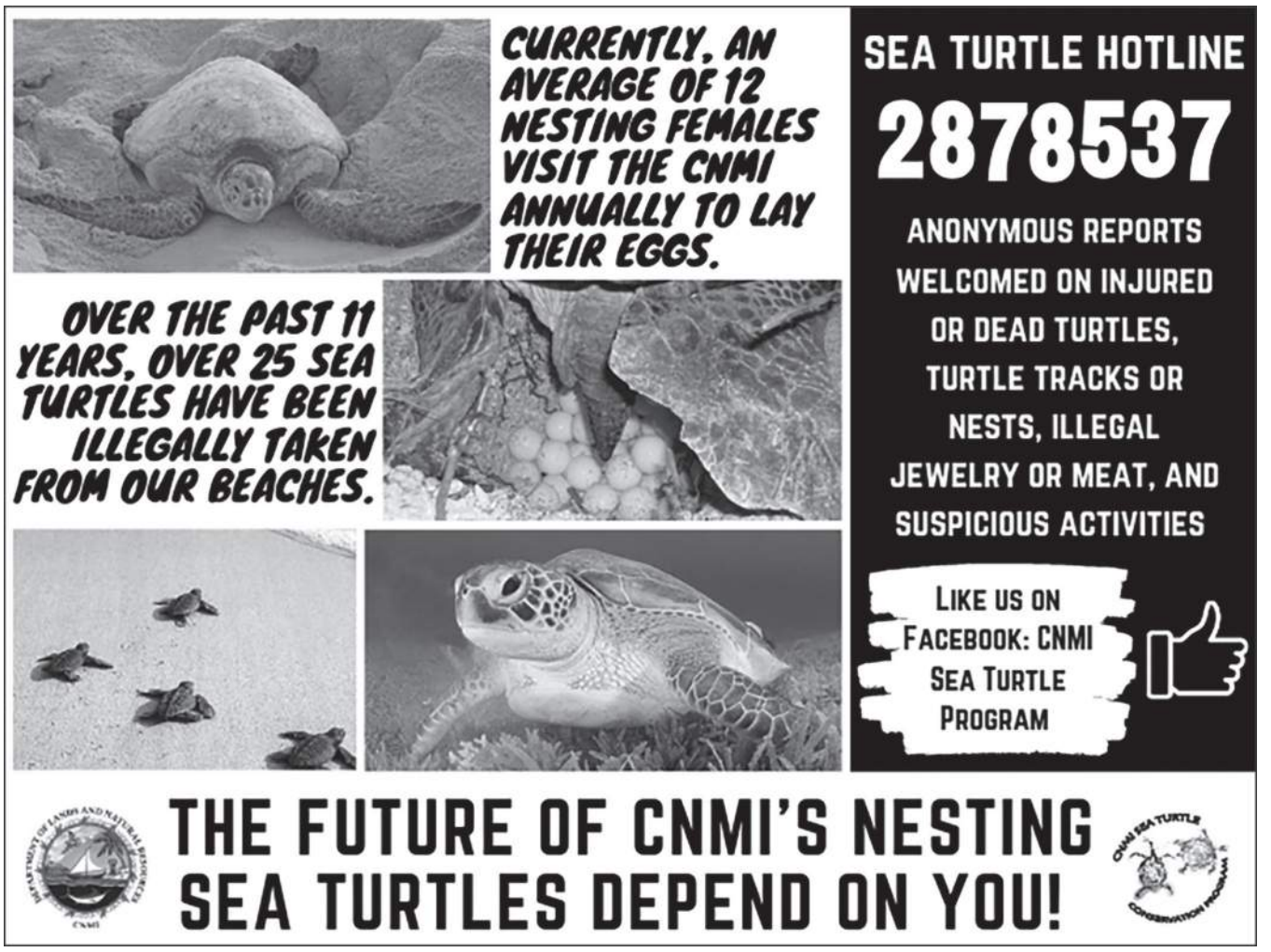
Membership Committee chair Lou Aguon-Schulte highlighted PATA members in the region in a special video presentation and discussed renewals, new sign-ups online, and the chapter's membership goals for this year.

On the following day, members got a chance to visit the world's last Ka forest (Yela Ka Forest), followed by the chapter's general membership meeting at the Tafunsak Marina Conference Room later that afternoon, where each of the national and state tourism offices reported on the status of visitor arrivals, upcoming events for tourists, upcoming marketing event, and other news. A farewell reception was hosted Kosrae Speaker's Office, and optional tours continued on the final day.

"This was a very productive meeting," said Stephanie Nakamura, PATA Micronesia chairwoman. "Kosrae has been described as the perfect getaway for its unblemished garden of flowers, palms and citrus trees. It is still rich in historical sites and ruins, and we hope to go back soon."

The PATA-Micronesia chapter will hold its third tri-annual meeting in Palau on. Nov. 30 to Dec. 6, 2019.

PATA is a membership association acting as a catalyst for the responsible development of the Asia Pacific travel and tourism industry. The PATA Micronesia Chapter consists of more than 80 members from the Micronesia region directly in the tourism industry, including national and state tourism offices. ***(PR)***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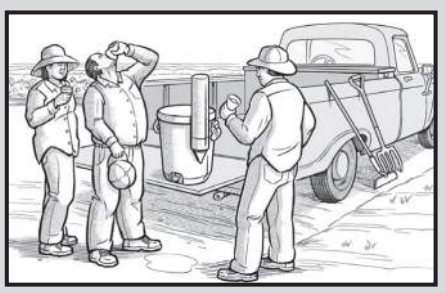
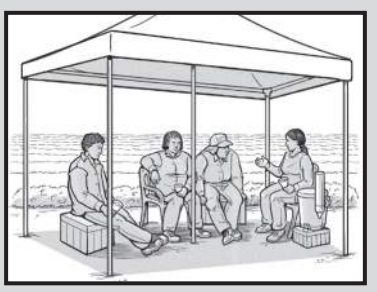


Water



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UNITED STATES
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities hereby gives notice that it will hold its 4th Quarter General Membership Meeting on August 26, 2019, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the LaoLao Bay & Golf Resort – Caladium Room

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Review & Adoption of Agenda of August 26, 2019
IV. Review & Adoption of Meeting Minutes of June 28, 2019
V. Reports
  a. Chairperson
  b. State Plan Committee Chairperson
  c. Fiscal Committee Chairperson
  d. Executive Director

VI. Old Business
  a. Emergency Preparedness Focus Group Meeting
  b. CIRCLES/Pre-ETS Transition Symposium

VII. New Business
  a. Disability Resource & Training Center
  b. Joint Meeting with CNMI UCEDD Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC)
  c. AVA App Demonstration

VIII. Action Items
  a. Election of Officers
    1. Secretary
    2. Vice Chairperson
    3. Chairperson

IX. Miscellaneous
X. Next Meeting
XI. Adjournment

Note: Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session. In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 5 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Efren Nicholas
Chairperson

This ad was paid for by funds from the DD Basic Grant Part A (Administrative)

UOG grad to study implications of COFA migration

A University of Guam alumnus will be studying the implications of Compact of Free Association migrants in regards to the public health, mental health, and detention systems in Guam and Hawaii as part of a doctorate program he starts this month at Clemson University.

Leon Guerrero

Vincent Leon Guerrero graduated from the master of science in Clinical Psychology program at the University of Guam in 2013. Following six years of work as a mental health counselor in the South Carolina Department of Mental Health, he will pursue his Ph.D. in policy studies.

For his master's thesis project, he worked to develop culturally informed interventions for youth in Guam's Department of Youth Affairs.

"While I was focused on the CHamoru youth, I found that the largest community in need was the youth of the FSM," he said. "I remember hearing many stories from FSM youth of a hope for a brighter future, a lack of opportunities for the FSM people, and a lack of internal family support. It was from this experience that I felt that over-representation of FSM youth at the Department of Youth Affairs was caused by larger policy issues rather than case-by-case mental health issues."

He said he hopes to contribute research toward improving the Compact of Free Association and guiding future policies that will positively benefit the Pacific community. He plans to eventually return to Guam to work in the area of public policy research, analysis, and development.

"Vincent has always had tremendous passion for helping others and serving the Guam community," said professor Iain K.B. Twaddle, Leon Guerrero's mentor when he was at the University of Guam. ***(PR)***

MCS to have its own TED-Ed Club

Expanding academic opportunities for both students and teachers, Mount Carmel School was recently approved to create a TED-Ed Club, opening more educational resources for students and teachers to discuss, debate, and explore ideas.

Through the club, students will develop skills in identifying the elements of a great idea; how to research, develop, and present an idea; tell a compelling story; and provide and receive feedback effectively.

"We are glad to have received the approval to establish a TED-Ed Club at Mount Carmel School," said MCS president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero. "One of the great things about the TED-Ed clubs is that it's completely free and there are no costs to students, parents, or teachers.

"At MCS we want our students to feel empowered to take on real-life challenges and share their ideas to create real and holistic solutions," said MCS principal Barbara Merfalen. "We're excited to see what challenges and ideas our TED-Ed participants will take on this school year."

The TED-Ed clubs program was developed by TED and provides a forum for students to develop, present and record their own original ideas in the form of short, TED Talk-style presentations.

For more information, call 234-6184 or email Deleon Guerrero at galvin.deleonguerrero@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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www.cnmicasinocommission.com
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AGENDA

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Commonwealth Casino Commission ("Commission"), hereby give notice that the Commission has scheduled a regular meeting on Wednesday, August 28, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at the Conference Room located on the 2nd Floor of the Commission's main office at the Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai, Saipan.

The following Agenda will be discussed:

I. PRELIMINARIES:
- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Adoption of Agenda
- D. Adoption of Minutes: July 18, 2019 & July 31, 2019

II. REPORTS:
- A. Report by the Chairman
- B. Report by the Executive Director

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

IV. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS:
- A. Casino Licensee (IPI) Updates:
  1. Construction Progress – Imperial Pacific Resort & Hotel
  2. IPI Personnel – Resident Employment Objectives & CLA Annual Plan
  3. Responsible Gaming Program
  4. Compliance Committee
  5. Other IPI Matters
- B. Status of Ancestral Remains & Plans for Re-interment at IPR site. Secretary of Community & Cultural Affairs, Mr. Robert Hunter, & Historic Preservation Officer, Ms. Rita Chong
- C. Other Miscellaneous Matters

V. OLD BUSINESS:
- A. Update on House Bill 21-11
- B. Other Old Business Matters

VI. NEW BUSINESS:
- A. **Approval** of a Regular Casino Vendor License – Non-Gaming Vendor (3-years):
  1. **Andurance (China) Investment Co., Limited.** Supplier of Doors, Windows, & Curtain Wall Systems. Provisional License expires on 10/01/19.
  2. **Fujian Xishi Co., Ltd** ("Fujian"). Supplier of Stone Products for the IPR. Provisional License expires 10/21/19.
- B. **Renewal** of Regular Casino Service Provider License – Gaming Vendor (2-years).
  1. **Dallmeier Electronic GmbH & Co. KG.** Manufacturer & Distributor of Electronic Monitoring & Surveillance Equipment & related Services. Initial 2-year License expires on 09/20/19.
- C. **Renewal** of Casino Junket Operator License (2-years).
  1. **Big Bang Entertainment, LLC.** Mr. Jang Du Young, President. Casino Junket Operations. Initial 2-year License expires on 08/31/19.
- D. **Request to Withdraw** Application for the Regular Casino Vendor License.
  1. **Consolidated Transportation Services, Inc. (CTSI).** Transportation Services & Supplier of Diesel Fuel. Withdrawal Letter from Mr. Joven I. Cruz, dated July 18, 2019. Provisional License expires on 01/29/20.
- E. **Notification** of Issuance of a Provisional Casino Service Provider License.
  1. **Aristocrat Technologies Macau, Limited.** Supplier of Electronic Gaming Machines & Services. Issued Date: 08/20/19. Expiration Date: 08/19/20.
- F. **Approval & Adoption** of CCC Order 2019-004: Order Requiring Casino Licensee to Settle Outstanding Financial and Contractual Obligations.
- G. **Other New Business Matters**

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:
- A. Report by the Legal Counsel

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Commission reserves the right to amend this agenda and take action on the amended agenda pursuant to 1 CMC §9910(b). Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Commission may vote to meet in Executive Session. In addition, the Commission may extend its official meeting for another day or more, if necessary.

/s/ Juan M. Sablan
Chairman

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DPL cites need for improved public benefits

Saying its focus is on improved public benefits from land lease revenues, Public Lands Secretary Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo said the department's decisions on public land leases is meant to ensure that benefits for those of Northern Marianas descent remains a priority.

According to a statement yesterday, Concepcion-Teregeyo said, "We charge rent based on an appraisal on fair market value. We also collect a percentage of the business gross receipts, which means that leases on public land are charged a base rent plus [business gross revenue tax].

"We are also communicating with members of the Legislature for a possible constitutional amendment which would need to be ratified by the people, where the people will decide if DPL can use lease revenue to pay for homestead infrastructure. For now, we have negotiated for additional public benefit, on top of base rent, which is a commitment from the lessee for the next homestead development project," she said.

She cited the ruling in Civil Action 84-119 on the case of *MPLT v. Marianas Public Land Corporation* (the predecessor of MPLA), which upholds that DPL could not use revenue from leases on public land to pay for homestead infrastructure.

The court ruling states: "Chief Judge Robert Hefner defined reasonable expenses and ruled that expenses of administration do not include capital expenditures or capital improvements such as constructing roads, water lines, sewers, etc. on public land designated within the homestead program."

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres noted that since DPL is authorized to negotiate for public benefits, the department has successfully reached public benefit contributions and redirected all public benefit contributions into homestead areas.

"Homesteads have high populations of people of Northern Marianas descent. In 2016, we worked with Docomo for their underground trenching lease. We successfully engaged public benefit contributions in addition to the base rental revenues from Docomo to install and provide buried fiber optic telecommunications infrastructure to homesteads and simultaneously bury underground electrical service conduit for CUC's improvements. This has helped with necessary infrastructure costs for the As Gonno homestead subdivision. At the same time, this has strengthened telecommunications and our resilience against natural disasters," Torres said.

Other recent public benefits include:

■ IT&E (Kagman, As Gonno, and Garapan, Saipan): Providing landline and internet services at no charge to existing youth centers and to all future village youth center buildings in the CNMI until the expiration of the lease. Ongoing negotiations for an antenna site in the north as well as free outdoor wireless internet in selected areas such as Kagman, or Dandan are being discussed.

■ Mobil Oil Marianas in Sasanhaya, Rota: Up to $1,000 in fuel every month for the use of official government vehicles for the life of the lease with 15 years remaining, which totals up to $180,000.) and is pending with the 21st Legislature.

■ Joyful Hope: $75,000 worth of in-kind donations to be used for future homestead infrastructure development); for their Lower Base lease.

■ Manbao in Garapan: Playground equipment every five years for the duration of their lease.

■ Advance Marine in Lower Base: $5,000 during each five-year period for the term of the lease; and 10 percent discount to Northern Marianas descent for purchase of cinder blocks at Saipan Unicorn.

Concepcion-Teregeyo said that policies and regulations regarding lease revenues continue to improve over the last three years.

Since the creation of DPL in 2006, the department has transferred a total of $20.9 million to the Marianas Public Land Trust. Under the Torres administration, since 2016, $12,416,932 has been remitted to MPLT. This accounts for more than 57 percent of total funds transferred.

DPL now requires appraisal reports for new leases every five years. In the past, DPL lessees were required to submit an appraisal every 10 years, which hampered higher yield earnings during high performing years. ***(PR)***

Faith, Hope and KARIDAT

A Northern Mariana Islands Social Service
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ONE (1) SHELTER WORKER

For more information, job description and application can be obtained from Karidat Main Office at Old Sister Remedios Bldg.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED: Complete application form, copy of diploma, resume, current police clearance and a copy of valid driver's license.

NO PHONE INQUIRIES PLEASE.
CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY, AUGUST 30, 2019 AT 4:00PM

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

San Vicente Estates, Inc.

Notice is hereby given that San Vicente Estates, Inc a Corporation duly organized and operating in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands has been dissolved effective August 21, 2019. Any persons or entities with claims against the corporation should submit their claim in writing to San Vicente Estates, Incorporated, Attn: John Jones, PMB 495, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB19-DOL/WIA-123
SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 06, 2019 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"SYMMETRICAL BANDWIDTH INTERNET SERVICES FOR A MINIMUM OF 20Mbps OR MORE COMING IN & A MINIMUM OF 20Mbps OR MORE GOING OUT CAPACITY FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AGENCY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ VICKY BENAVENTE
SECRETARY OF LABOR

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP19-CHCC/CGC-021
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 09, 2019 TIME: 11:59 PM

"FIRST FLOOR RENOVATION - COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION - COMMUNITY GUIDANCE CENTER"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

***MANDATORY ASSESSMENT ON AUGUST 29, 2019 @ 9:00 A.M. SAIPAN TIME @ COMMUNITY GUIDANCE CENTER, GLORIA DRIVE, NAVY HILL**

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ SUBROTO BANERJI
ACTING CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB19-DOL/WIA-124
SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 24, 2019 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

"CLEANING SERVICES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AGENCY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/S/ VICKY BENAVENTE
SECRETARY OF LABOR

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (1-670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) hereby gives notice that a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Tuesday, August 27, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. in the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Classroom located at the Airport Fire Station, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on the island of Saipan. The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes (July 16, 2019)

II. PUBLIC COMMENT(S)
III. CORRESPONDENCES
VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS
1. Financial Affairs Committee
2. Airport Facilities Committee
3. Seaport Facilities Committee
4. Personnel Affairs Committee

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
VI. OLD BUSINESS
1. Organizational Chart

VII. NEW BUSINESS
1. Personnel Matter: Comptroller Employment Contract
2. ARFF/Ports Police Physical Fitness Program for Tinian and Rota
3. Contract and Supplemental Budget Request - Saipan ARFF Training Facility Typhoon Repairs - Professional Services Contract
4. Contract and Supplemental Budget Request: Ricondo Concession Contract Change Order No. 3
5. Contract and Supplemental Budget Request: SIA Master Plan Contract Amendment No. 1
6. Contract and Supplemental Budget Request: SIA Rotating Beacon
7. Contract and Supplemental Budget Request: SIA Loading Bridges A&E Contract – Amendment No. 1
8. Seaport Regulations for Small Boat Operations

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
• Legal Counsel Reports: Legal matters/Litigation
IX. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS
X. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.

Kimberlyn King-Hinds
Chairwoman, Board of Directors

August 22, 2019

Marianas Medical Center

is seeking for U.S. qualified workers for the following position:

(1) Accountant

Examine, analyze, and interpret accounting records to prepare financial statements, give advice, or audit and evaluate statements prepared by others. Install or advise on systems of recording costs or other financial and budgetary data. Accounting requires certain hard skills, such as mathematics and expertise with accounting software. Accountants must be detail oriented, have strong analytical skills, and a facility with computer software such as spreadsheet programs to organize and report financial data.

(1) Registered Nurse (RN) – Full Time

The Registered Nurse (RN) demonstrate commitment to health care and patient care by supporting the clinic's providers with patient care by assessing patient health problems and needs, administer nursing care for patients. College graduate degree in Nursing from school approved by the Commonwealth Board of Nurse Examiners (CBNE), with 1 year of work experience as a Nurse of working in a similar capacity in a health care or medical setting. Must process US NCLEX-RN and is licensed as a RN by CBNE. Must have the ability to work proficiently in a fast paced clinical environment. Ability to speak and translate in the Chinese language is preferred.

All positions close 5:00pm on Friday, September 06, 2019.

Applications are available at the Marianas Medical Center. Applications should include a resume and evidence of education degree(s) and professional licenses claimed. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Testing may be required for some positions. Marianas Medical Center is an equal opportunity employer. The potential applicants/ may apply directly to MMC & Pacific Labs, LLC. Contacting us at (670) 234-3926 or through our email address Mondays through Fridays and is open between 8:00am to 5:00pm for all related recruitment process.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING DATE: August 23, 2019 • **CLOSING DATE:** September 09, 2019
TIME: 10:00 A.M.

NMHC JVA No.	Positions:	Salary:
2019-005	CDBG-DR Planning and Program Finance Manager	UNGRADED $50,000.00 to $60,000.00-per annum

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net . NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

Free concert at the Hyatt ballroom this Sunday

The Saipan Pacific Winds Concert Band is hosting a free summer-closing concert on Sunday, Aug. 25, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan ballroom, featuring several guest bands.

Doors open at 4pm and the show starts at 4:30pm.

The concert, called "Hands Across the Sea," will feature performances by musicians from Saipan and Guam, as well as the Gamagori Junior Band from the Aichi Prefecture in Japan. This is the band's first visit to Saipan.

Band directors in Gamagori City in Aichi created the Gamagori Junior Band in 1995, in response to the declining number of band programs and stagnating band activities in the city. Their hope was to improve the level of musicianship of youth members and provide cultural exchange opportunities through music.

Since its creation, the Gamagori Junior Band has performed annual concerts 19 times, all receiving positive responses. Internationally, the band has traveled seven times to China, South Korea, and Guam. The band has held friendship concerts with bands from Australia, Guam, South Korea and Poland. The Gamagori Junior Band has established a sister-city program with Urasoe City in Okinawa.

The opening act of the Hands Across the Sea Concert will be Guam National Guard's 721st Army Rock Band. There will also be performances by the Saipan Pacific Winds Concert Band; a combined band composed of the Guam National Guard's 721st Army Rock Band, the Gamagori Junior Band, and Saipan Pacific Winds Concert Band; and individual musicians from Marianas High School, Saipan International School, and Saipan Community School.

Program music will include Shenandoah, selections from Aladdin, The Lion King medley, March Hands Across the Sea, and other selections.

This concert is free of charge. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Club 200 theme is Latin Nights

The 30th American Red Cross Club 200 fundraising dinner is scheduled for Oct. 12, a Saturday, at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. This year's theme will be "Latin Nights" and feature décor, dancing, costumes and food from throughout Latin America. There will be salsa dancing and costume contests, piñata special prizes, and lots of door prizes. Support the Red Cross humanitarian work by purchasing tickets. Tickets are $100 each or $150 for VIP and available from ticket sellers or by calling the Red Cross office at 234-3459. ***(PR)***

School orientation at DMS

Dandan Middle School is inviting all students, parents, and guardians to attend the back-to-school orientation on Thursday, Aug. 29, 2019.

- 6thGrade: 1:30pm–2:30pm
- 7thGrade: 2:30pm–3:30pm
- 8thGrade: 3:30pm–4:30pm

The initial gathering will be held in the school's cafeteria. Soon after, students who have registered will receive their class schedules and meet the grade level team. The school team will discuss the rules of the school, share expectations, middle school grading policy, and other matters.

Classes will resume on Tuesday, Sept. 3, 8;30am–3:30pm.

Underwood to give talk on CHamoru self-determination

In late July this year, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit upheld the District Court of Guam's ruling in Davis v. Guam. This has led to the government of Guam planning its next steps forward. The ruling has also brought forth many questions, arguments, and misconceptions surrounding decolonization and self-determination.

In light of this, two University of Guam student organizations—the Political Science Student Association and Mañe'lon Marianas—are hosting "Setting the Record Straight: The Recent Historical Basis of CHamoru Self-Determination," a presentation by University of Guam president emeritus and former delegate Dr. Robert A. Underwood.

In his presentation, Underwood will trace the history of the CHamoru push for self-determination, from his time as the first CHamoru to testify at the United Nations in the 1980s up to the Davis v. Guam case today. While tracing this history, Underwood will also demystify many of the common misconceptions surrounding the issues and take questions during a subsequent Q&A session.

The presentation will be held from 5:30pm to 7:30pm on Tuesday, Aug. 27, at the University of Guam's CLASS Lecture Hall. The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Underwood at 727-7715 or Natasha Suba, president of the Political Science Student Association, at 483-0398. ***(PR)***

Guam govt releases more tax refunds

HAGATÑA, Guam—The Guam Department of Revenue and Taxation and Department of Administration mailed last Monday 964 tax refund checks totaling approximately $2.8 million, including refunds garnished to repay government debts, for error-free returns filed on or before Feb. 15, 2019.

For inquiries, contact Income Tax Branch, Department of Revenue and Taxation at 635-1840 or Edward Birn, Department of Administration, at 475-1250. ***(PR)***

FEMA VALOR to kick off on Tinian tomorrow

The Tinian Mayor's Office (together with the Tinian Legislative Delegation) is teaming up with the Federal Emergency Management Agency's VALOR Program and Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts, or C.A.R.E., starting tomorrow, Aug. 24, 2019 at 9am, to perform some roofing repairs on homes that have been approved by the FEMA VALOR program guidance.

Volunteers are needed to help homeowners rebuild their roof so that their homes are safe places to reside. Volunteers are encouraged to bring tools such as a tape measure, hammer, handsaw, screwdrivers (Phillip and flathead), drill, and others. The FEMA Valor program will be providing some tools required to the project site.

Anyone interested in the volunteer opportunity should call 433-1800/1802 for Vanessa Manglona or email vanessamanglona.mot@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Auditions for the FOA production

The Friends of the Arts is scheduling its production of The Jungle Book for Oct. 18-19 and 25-26. All persons interested in being a part of this popular Broadway play are invited to an audition being held on Aug. 30, from 5:30pm to 8pm, at the HR Support CNMI office on the second floor or the JET Realty Building, right above J›s Restaurant in Gualo Rai. The play has many parts, including adult and young people's roles.

No preparation for the audition is necessary. Readings will be from the script. We are looking for a cast of 20 and a backstage crew. If you are interested in either performing in the play or assisting as part of the stage crew come to the audition. Whether an experienced or aspiring actor or actress, come and audition for a role. This is not a musical.

If you would like to be involved but cannot make this audition text/call Susan 287-2225. ***(PR)***

Scheduled power interruption today

There will be a scheduled power interruption today, Aug. 23, from 9am to 11am, which will affect the Northern Marianas College, Joeten Dandan Supermarket, San Vicente Elementary School, Finasisu Lane, Chalan Tun Antonio Apa, Rasimu Lane, Rte. 307 (CMS Quarry), Tanduki Drive, Katupat Drive, Fatiguan Lane, Bentana Drive, Katbon Road, and Laulau Bay Drive.

Water services may be affected based on tank levels for the areas of Lower San Vicente, South San Vicente, Upper Dandan Homestead and Obyan. The W-8 wastewater lift station will be affected.

Traffic lights to be affected include the NMC traffic light, Shell Dandan gas station traffic light, Airport Road traffic light, and San Vicente traffic light.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF EDUARDO OCAMPO DAVID, Deceased.) Civil Action No. 18-0465-CV) **NOTICE OF HEARING ON AMENDED VERIFIED PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION**

TO: ALL HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES AND CREDITORS OF: EDUARDO OCAMPO DAVID, DECEASED

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Amended petition of JUAN A. GACAYAN for the issuance of letters of administration of this estate will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Presiding/Associate Judge, on the 5th day of September, 2019, at 10:00 a.m., at the Marianas Business Plaza, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, of any, why the order should not be made.

For further particulars, please refer to the amended Petition on file herein, or contact counsel for Petitioner, Joey P. San Nicolas, P.O. Box 10,001 PMB 602, Saipan, MP 96950; telephone (670) 234-7659 and email jpsn@sannicolaslaw.net.

Pursuant to Rule 21, NMI R. Prob. P., notice is hereby given to all creditors of the decedent, EDUARDO OCAMPO DAVID, or of his estate, that they must file their claims with the Clerk of the Superior Court, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, whitin sixty (60) days of the first publication of this Notice, or the claims will ne forever barred.

Dated this 6th day of August, 2019.

Patrick V. Diaz, Clerk of Court
/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Responsible Alcohol & Tobacco Retailer Training

for all Off Premise (Class 4) Alcohol Retailers and Tobacco Retailers (Class 2)

TRAINING WILL INCLUDE

- Discussion and overview of key ABTC laws
- Prevention of sales to minors
- Effects of alcohol and tobacco on minors
- Effective ID checking
- Refusing a Sale
- Question and Answer Session

August 28
Fiesta Resort and Spa

Alcohol (Class 4) Retailer Training - 8:00 am 11:30am
Tobacco Merchant Training - 1:00 pm 3:30 pm

No Cost

Register Now

islandtrainingsolutions@gmail.com
or office.its@pticom.com

Chinese and Korean interpreters and materials will be available.

Alcohol Beverage and Tobacco Control (ABTC)

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation: Community Guidance Center - Substance Abuse Prevention Services Unit

"This program was supported by Grant Numbers 5U79SP020710-05 awarded to the CHCC: Community Guidance Center (CGC) by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Points of view or opinions contained within this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services or the CHCC: CGC."

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIX, Issue No. 167

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Diminishing the American spirit

The United States is built on the backs and dreams of immigrants, people who left strife-filled homelands in the hope of a better life. It is the moral rationale that declares our collective claim to an American exceptionalism that has existed since the nation's founding, despite periods when our actions have failed to align with our ideals.

Sadly, the Trump administration now has chosen to hurl a firebomb into a hay barn with a callous interpretation of longstanding immigration rules that prevents immigrants from gaining admission, renewing visas or obtaining green cards if they are, "likely at any time to become a public charge."

Until now, the interpretation of "public charge" in the Immigration and Nationality Act has leaned toward the spirit of the "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses" inscription on the Statue of Liberty. It welcomed legal immigrants with the implicit understanding that most would seize a chance to prosper in a new land, as many previous generations of newcomers had.

The Trump administration's interpretation is, instead, a harsh and misguided broadside assault on legal immigration in the guise of curbing illegal immigration. It seeks to use regulations to mount an end run around Congressional authority. Taken as a whole, it is rife with legal challenges and spells economic trouble for a nation that needs migrant labor.

The argument, as the Trump administration has made it, is that poor immigrants are destined to be on the public dole as patrons of Medicaid, food stamps and other public assistance. This fallacy provides broad latitude for the government to reject anyone who is deemed at risk of becoming a "public charge" based on arbitrary assessments of levels of income, employment, education and English proficiency.

This is neither due process nor the spirit of a welcoming nation.

Numerous studies show that current earnings aren't predictive of future income or government dependency. New immigrants, however, are more likely to work, often filling jobs that Americans will not perform. Legal immigrants are likely to have pulled themselves out of poverty into at least a modest lifestyle within four years in the country.

The administration should focus on promoting comprehensive immigration reform that enables legal immigrants, skilled and unskilled, to become prosperous and self-sufficient. This country has a long and proud history of nonprofit organizations that help immigrants find their way, including acquiring language skills and establishing small businesses. In the 1970s, the Ford administration encouraged families to take in Vietnamese refugees, bolstering a culture of compassion and self-reliance.

The nation must have a serious and thoughtful discussion of immigration policy and how best to fill skills gaps in the economy and resolve the myriad of other immigration-related issues without demonizing immigrants. Erecting another hurdle to legal immigration is unproductive.

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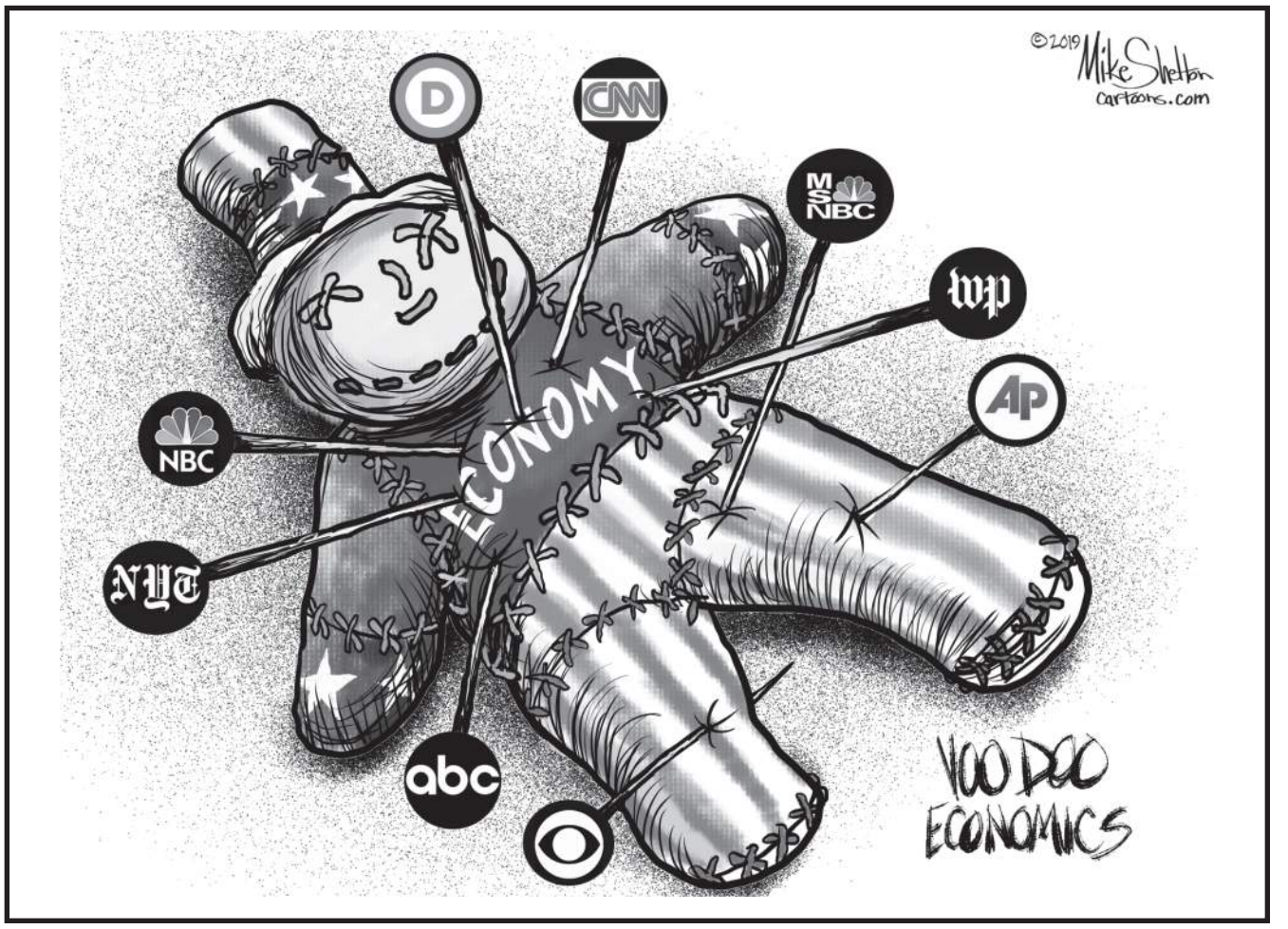


And-gay Lab-gray?

SOUR GRAPES

By BRUCE A. BATEMAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Bruce A. Bateman resides on Saipan with a wife, a son, and an unknown number of boonie dogs. He has owned and operated a number of unusual businesses and most recently worked as the marketing manager for MVA. Bruce likes to read, travel, tinker with bicycles, hike, swim, and play a bit of golf. He is opinionated and writes when the moon is full and the mood strikes.

Before we get started I want to introduce a new monthly feature for Sour Grapes readers. As you likely know, Public Law 18-1 made it mandatory by law for the Finance Department to remit to the Marianas Visitors Authority 80% of the hotel tax collected within 20 days of receipt. Here then is the monthly update of the status of obeying that law: Balance unpaid to MVA as of today is $5.35 million. Monthly hotel tax collections received by Finance but not paid to MVA and now past due are March, April, May, June and July. Soon August.

Marpi parks

Rep. Roman Benavente and freshman Rep. Sheila Babauta have proposed a law to take five well-known Marpi historic sites away from the Department of Public Lands and deed them over to the Department of Lands and Natural Resources and be administered by the same as parks. The Grotto, Banzai Cliff, Bird Island, Kalabera Cave, the Last Command Post, and Suicide Cliff are to be stripped from DPL if this measure becomes law. Or more land, depending on the boundaries House Bill 21-72 sets.

According to the DLNR Parks and Recreation Division official website, "jurisdiction" already links all five of these under DLNR, along with eight other tourist sites and a lot of other recreation areas and public beaches. https://www.cnmiparksandrecreation.com/DPR%20Managed%20Sites.pdf

Before an important step like stripping the land from the protection of DPL, whose job it is to protect public lands and give it over—no, *deed* it over—to DLNR/P&R, wouldn't you think that a series of public hearings should be held? There are a number of questions that should be answered and input sought from the citizens who are the ultimate owners of public lands.

As an example, would it not be better if private concessionaires operated these sites much as is done in our most important site, Managaha? All are historically significant and are major tourist attractions as well. Managaha = perfect and clean. Marpi sites = often unkempt and unmowed. Same tourists though.

Another issue is the ability of DLNR/P&R to actually do this job. Do they have the money, the personnel or the expertise to be public park administrators?

Here is another, even more troubling question that comes to mind: According to Rep. Benavente, who pointed out in an interview, "The tourist sites in Marpi are some of the most significant and beloved natural landmarks in the entire CNMI."

"They are a source of tremendous pride and have provided locals and tourists with cherished memories and world-class experiences."

"But, right now, these tourist attractions face ever-increasing threats."

"Mother Nature's gifts are being used and, in some cases, abused. We can no longer afford to maintain the status quo of unmitigated pollution and irreparable harm."

If ever increasing threats are occurring, and if the sites are being abused, and if unmitigated pollution and irreparable harm are all occurring while these sites are currently under the watch and jurisdiction of Tony Benavente's DLNR, what magical change should we expect when they *own* the land outright! Note that Tony, when a representative himself, tried to get this same turn-over-to-DLNR legislation passed. Odd coincidence.

Another question comes to mind: Rep. Sheila Babauta said, "There is a need to empower DLNR so it can protect the Marpi landmarks and ensure that future generations will enjoy the island's natural beauty." Sounds warm and cuddly but what protection can DLNR provide once the land is removed from under the strict scrutiny of DPL's constitutional mandate and Covenant provisions? Land grab?

I have a lot more questions and I'm sure hundreds of others, like NMD's, have an even greater stake in it than I do and will want to comment publically and loudly prior to a step like selling off protected lands to DLNR.

Public hearings in the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center and other accessible venues are a must, right, Sheila and Roman?

Charter opportunity

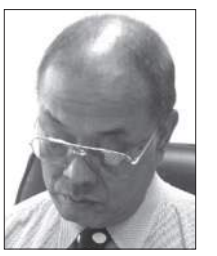
You probably know that Skymark Airlines is making non-stop flights to Saipan from Japan again. Some were held in March and April, now some more are scheduled in August (now) and a few more (six) will be flown next month (September). What you may not know is that these are charter flights, not regularly scheduled flights that JAL, NW Orient, and Delta used to provide daily, year-round, from Japan.

What that means is these are temporary short-term flights,

See AND-GAY on Next Page

Santa in his canoe

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

Nearly 15,000 employees are earning poverty income level NMI-wide. It's salaries between $15K and $18K per year and most employees are stuck in these categories.

I recall the administration announcing plans to improve this issue to a decent level. But I haven't seen it implemented yet.

The ball is on your side of the court, so to speak. Employees have yet to see Santa come into the harbor in his canoe! Or does his itinerary include a quick stop this Christmas?

Resetting

Local Democrats have decided to take an early start in preparing for next year's midterm election. It seems ready for real time tango on people's issues, quiet the landscape may be.

It brings some sense of excitement for new ideas that address people's issues in the villages.

I'm interested to hear educated discussion on the resolution of poverty income and other major concerns. Let's see how many of the politicians are conversant in this and other collateral issues.

It's timely to rein in some sense of purpose and mandate all Da Boysis to support improving the quality of life at home. We need some solid and realistic plans on this score. Must liberate your little self from chiming the usual adolescency, "not yet, already."

Indeed, simple folks know that "scarcity" is a "discouraging" word for they live it, daily. This must improve and it needs leadership.

There's the promise of brighter tomorrows but it comes with the shift of people charged with the disposition of local affairs. Voters decide when it's time to change exhausted followership to bold and creative leadership! *Biba* Marianas!

Main

The chief complaint of low poverty income wages and salaries here is a realistic setback for families. What's the single most vital issue behind this complaint? Quality of life!

Our people aspire for the means to build decent and safe family homes, food, clothes, and other basic filial needs. As it is more than half the time the family purse is empty, therefore, a nightmare they have to endure daily.

The key word is "basic"—just to make it through another day. Is this a term you could understand without looking disoriented while wringing your hands to allay personal fear for snoozing on the wheels? It's all about depth of perception and conviction!

Truthful

The literal expression of hardship is hard to ignore, knowing it's truthful sentiment hailing from poverty conditions in family homes across the archipelago.

Those elected (29 legislators, two in the administration and Cabinet people) tasked to dispose of people's issues aren't necessarily poised to resolve the mounting mess, dazed and confused.

Nor do I expect reasoned answers on why the deepening mess and plans to resolve it. Whatever happened to depth of perception and conviction? Do we continue intoning "que sera?"

The issue is treated like a filthy leper roaming the villages. Some are willing to help but equally fearful of being infected with the lethal disease. Do we really have the gall to ignore the needs of the leper seen all over the villages?

Decreases

Meanwhile, folks have also heard of major economic contraction (decreases) that robs of any opportunity for more family income. It makes for a confused landscape, e.g., economic contraction amidst loud protest for improvements on family income.

The echo of far less for far more gets louder by the day. Downward spending adjustment is the only wise option at this point for families. Is forced poverty the only answer from Da Boysis?

It's one difficult challenge navigating scarcity. The obvious query is how could this be improved? The answer: Ask Da Boysis! Let's hear some realistic answers premised on fully thought-out economic plans.

Taxes

Some legislators aim more broth for small businesses in the form of taxes. Goes to show they never took Economics 101 or simple apprehension what the issue entails.

When small businesses are literally in dire straits, is there really an opportunity to grow when nearing bankruptcy? Why would you impose more taxes on small businesses owned by foreigners? How about some appreciable sense of equality and fellowship?

Broth

Returning to the internet, there's the immigration and gun control legislation currently under debate in Washington.

The combined argument is analogous to too much broth where too many cooks spoil the recipe. We stare at it, pondering if it's even safe to consume. Too many chefs on a pot of soup!

Poop

Interesting how Los Angeles and San Francisco, two the richest cities, have devolved into Poop Cities! You find poop or feces everywhere. The entire state stinks! Whatever happened to liberal leadership?

Defending America after 2020

By JAMES JAY CARAFANO
The Heritage Foundation

A Heritage Foundation vice president, James Jay Carafano directs the think tank's research on matters of national security and foreign relations.

Many people around the world will be watching and waiting to see how the next American election turns out, but one group doesn't have that luxury: those in the Pentagon. They have a little less than two years to get ready to explain to the next administration, a new Congress and their fellow Americans how they plan to protect America from potential aggressors such as China, Russia and Iran.

The U.S. military is in a strange place. Likely as not America won't be looking to start any new wars anytime soon. Congress passed a two-year budget deal which would deliver the military sustained and consistent funding through the next two fiscal years, and Washington is distracted by a divisive and bitter no-holds-barred political struggle for power.

So the two sides will war over a lot of issues, but war itself probably won't top the list. This election cycle is proving to be mostly about domestic issues. In short, the Pentagon isn't the center of attention.

What this represents to the military is an opportunity—an opportunity to use that time to make a clear and compelling case for what capabilities America's military will bring to the table to protect America's interest over the long term and ensure the global stability which suits the U.S. and its friends and allies.

On the high end, the U.S. needs to demonstrate the capacity to deter great power conflict. Right now, Russia, China, Iran and North Korea share a common goal. They would like to "win without fighting." In other words they would like to beat the U.S. without getting into a military confrontation where they know they'd have at least as much to lose as we do—if not more.

We need to keep it that way. We have to remain able to demonstrate that we can fight and win the big ones, so no ever even thinks about giving it a shot.

In particular, the U.S. has to refurbish its capacity to lead in large-scale conventional conflicts, operating well above the level of ground brigades, fighter sorties and the naval task force deployments as it does now. The U.S. must be able lead, fight and sustain coalition armies fighting on land, at sea and in the air—as well as in space and cyberspace.

Just deterring big wars, however, isn't enough. America's competitors will look for other ways to meddle, undermine and fracture America's power and alliances. These competitors want to get their way by engaging in operations below the level of general wars.

The U.S. has to sustain the capability and capacity to operate freely, particularly where America's vital interests are at stake. This means working with our allies in Europe, checkmating Iran in the Middle East and working for a free and open Indo-Pacific in the Far East.

The Pentagon doesn't have luxury of focusing only on one or two of these regions. You can be sure that the minute the U.S. steps back in any of these areas, one of our competitors will step up in our place.

Finally, the U.S. can't forget the "low" end of conflict. This administration would like to finish in places such as Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan. But while we would like to forget about this kind of conflict, others won't. Like it or not, the U.S. must assume that sooner or later it will have to train, assist and support allies or other countries struggling with the challenges of unconventional conflict and political warfare.

The U.S. shouldn't lose its muscle memory for low-end conflict. The Army, for example, ought to retain its robust Security Assistance Brigade capability.

If the Pentagon does its job right between now and the election, it can demonstrate that while America's military isn't cheap, it's a bargain for sustaining the freedom, prosperity and security of Americans well into the 22nd century.

AND-GAY

From Page 14

neither permanent nor scheduled into the future beyond the half-dozen flights to be flown in September. You may also not know that airline companies usually want to be subsidized with cash, lots of cash, and discounts on airport fees and taxes if they are to fly to a destination. Skymark is no exception. It will take millions of U.S. dollars to fly the charters, not to mention talking them into flying regularly scheduled daily flights here.

What this also means is we have a last-ditch chance to revive our Japanese tourism market. What happens in the future with respect to Japanese visitors depends on how these few that will arrive on these charter flights are treated, whether they like what they see, what the comparative value per Yen spent is compared to other destinations they might choose to go to, and whether MVA pays the bills on time for the extensive, multimillion-dollar promotions and the fees to agents that are booking these charter flight seats. There are some other factors, most of which relate to customer experience at the destination, but these are the major ones that will determine whether or not there is a Japanese market in the future.

If you don't care one way or another, doing nothing will work out fine for you. If you want to see the return of the Japanese tourism industry to these shores beyond the paltry 3% market share it now enjoys, then you should look to see what *you* can do to help make that happen. You don't have much time. While Skymark may be induced to fly regular daily flights "later," there is no agreement in place and they will make their decision on whether or not they think they can fill those seats and make that Saipan/Japan route *profitable*. They are a business. That is all they care about. If they don't make a profit for their shareholders on this route, those shareholders will clamor for Skymark to fly somewhere else where the money is flowing. This really is our last chance for the foreseeable future and even this small step took years of effort and lots of money. Tell your governor that MVA needs its money. Pay up. According to the latest figures, Finance owes MVA $5.35 million ($5,350,000) and is past due since March.

If you own a business, cater to them, advertise to them, offer specials and show them that you really appreciate their business. If you see tourists on the street, smile, wave, be helpful, courteous and polite. Invite them to your village fiesta or, better yet, to your BBQ with family by the beach. Speak a few words of their language. Clean Saipan up and keep it clean and maintained. *Do* what you can do. Time is short.

No air seats, no butts. No butts, no wallets. You can figure out the rest for yourself.

Thanks for reading Sour Grapes!

"The local park always leave their sprinklers on, which is a little bit annoying. It's a source of constant irrigation."

—Anonymous

■■■

"Fall down seven times, stand up eight."

—Japanese expression

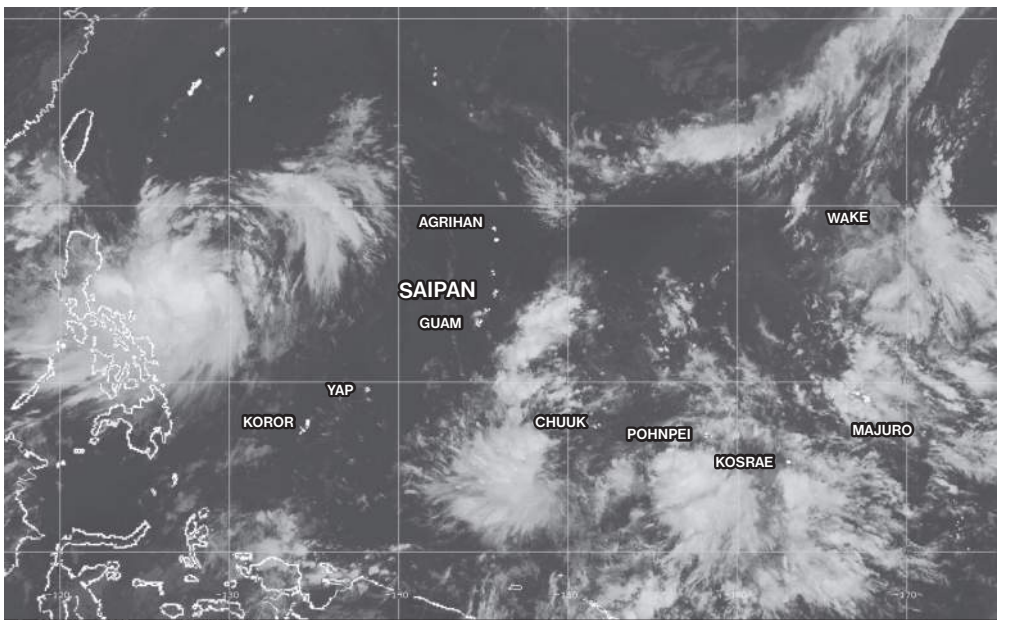
Note: In case you didn't get this column's title, that's pig Latin for "land grab."

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph becoming southeast.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
89° 78°	88° 76°	89° 77°	89° 78°	89° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:41 AM, THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Andersen Air Force Base Doppler weather radar shows isolated showers moving through the Marianas waters. The VAD wind profile indicates northeast winds around 10 knots through the lowest 4 thousand feet of the air, which then build to around 15 knots through 14 thousand feet. The buoys reveal combined seas of 3 to 4 feet composed of northeast wind waves and southwest swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	83° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	87° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 76°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	57° / 52°
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	88° / 66°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	90° / 82°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	89° / 78°
London	Mostly Sunny	75° / 57°
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	79° / 64°
Manila	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
Melbourne	Showers	61° / 45°
Miami	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
New York	Partly Cloudy	80° / 65°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	82° / 73°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	84° / 59°
Busan	Cloudy	82° / 75°
Rome	Thunderstorms	88° / 72°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	93° / 72°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	72° / 58°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	84° / 68°
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	84° / 73°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	82° / 67°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
7:00 AM	LOW TIDE	0.57
1:19 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.57
6:53 PM	LOW TIDE	1.07
-	-	-

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:03 AM	6:35 PM
Saturday	6:03 AM	6:35 PM
Sunday	6:03 AM	6:34 PM
Monday	6:03 AM	6:33 PM
Tuesday	6:03 AM	6:33 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	11:56 AM	11:45 PM
Saturday	-	12:49 AM	-
Sunday	12:32 AM	1:45 PM	-
Monday	1:24 AM	2:44 PM	-
Tuesday	2:21 AM	3:43 PM	-

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 15, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	10:00am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	1, 2, 3, 5, 7
7C3403	5:00am	8:30am	4
7C3403	5:00am	8:50am	6
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	4, 7
7C3401	4:10pm	8:10pm	1, 2, 3, 5, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:15am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:10pm	Daily
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	3, 5

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	8:10pm	3:10am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:50pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:20pm	00:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

NMI Museum closed for upgrades

A visitor reads a notice posted on the front door of the NMI Museum announcing its temporary closure.
IVA MAURIN

History buffs and museum lovers should expect an even better experience at the NMI Museum of History and Culture next week.

» With plan to reopen next week

The museum and its exhibits are being upgraded right now, so it is temporarily closed until Aug. 26, Monday. This is the first phase of three planned upgrades of the museum.

The museum has been going through repairs in the past months, using funds from the Marianas Visitors Authority, to preserve the building and to safeguard its exhibits.

In an interview in April, NMI Museum director Daniel Aquino Jr. said that following the completion of the repairs on the building, they will begin to build temporary huts to provide a venue for local artists to teach, display, and sell local products to museum guests.

Last June, Aquino lobbied for a constant source of funding for the museum. Aquino said that with enough funds, the museum could work on upgrades (such as a coffee shop and the proposed fixture of the underground bunker) that could attract more visitors and help generate funds. ***(Iva Maurin)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-19-025

ROTA WATER CAVE ENCLOSURE

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Rota Water Cave Enclosure in Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of the installation of a new concrete CMU block wall enclosure, screened aluminum doors, drain pipes, fencing upgrades; and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Public Law 20-61.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **180 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **August 30 , 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Rota Directors Office, Sinapalo, Rota.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-19-025, Rota Water Cave Enclosure"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on September 19, 2019**. Bid Submissions will be publicly opened and read aloud at 10:15 AM (ChST) the same day. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety
company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on September 3, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Edgar Tuazon, Water Division, Jr. Engineer via email address edgar.tuazon@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Purchasing Technician, Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM B. GILMORE
Acting, Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-19-033

REQUEST FOR FEE PROPOSAL FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from professional Archaeologist who meets U.S. Department of Interior qualifications (36CFR61) to create a work plan to prepare information, data, and documentation needed to conduct Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) review with aim of completing Section 106 Review and generating archaeological expectations necessary for the proposed CUC waterline and sewerline projects proposed for FY 19. The selected consultant shall provide necessary assessment within the Area of Potential Effect (APE) of the proposed waterline and sewerline installation satisfactory to the CUC, United States Environmental Protection Agency and State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $50.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-work will be emailed to all registered prospective proposers email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and four (4) hard copies, must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-19-033, Request for Fee Proposal for Archaeological Services"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **September 23, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 6, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator at email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, Engineer for Water Division at email address nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrative Technician, Senior at email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM GILMORE
Acting, Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-19-028

REPLACEMENT OF SADOG TASI WWTP CLARIFIER

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Replacement of Sadog Tasi Clarifier Replacement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The intent of the contract is for the Contractor to provide all labor, equipment, supplies and materials necessary to complete the scope of work which consists of installation of a new circular clarifier mechanism and replacement or repair of the effluent launder box; removal of the old circular clarifier mechanism and sections of the effluent launder box; replacement of the RFP weirs and scum baffle, installation of a new outer scum baffle; installation of new area lighting, wires, and conduit, and disconnect boxes; installation of a new process water spray system for foam control. The work shall include the dewatering and cleaning of aeration basin #3 and the clarifier; routing process flow and maintaining conditions during the construction period; and returning process flow from the aeration basin to the clarifier. The work shall be completed with minimal disruption to the daily operation of the Sadog Tasi Waste Water Treatment Plant. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 365 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **$100.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on August 22, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building. One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-19-028, Replacement of the Sadog Tasi Clarifier"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) September 6, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time.

Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on August 23, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Westen Knudsen, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email address westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Purchasing Technician, Senior – christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM GILMORE
Acting, Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Business

Pitchfest finalists ready for tonight

The finalists for the Saipan Chamber of Commerce first entrepreneur Pitchfest are ready to present their business ideas this evening at Hyatt Regency Ballroom from 6pm to 10pm. After many rounds of selection, the eight finalists for Pitchfest are as follows:

- Jeremy Wolfe & Elina Gharti Chhetri of Marianas Creation
- Vincent Aldan of Ra Power
- Eric and Tania David of Isla Shreds
- Diana Hocog of JD's Boutique from Rota
- Priscilla Pangelinan of Music & Me
- Joseph Villacrusis of Salty Skin Pacific, LLC.
- Michea Arritola of Guava Rose Resale
- Tanya Salas and Vicente Salas of Tahine's TV Productions

Commerce, with the support of the CNMI Small Business Development Center, is proud to present the inaugural Pitchfest. This event is an opportunity for entrepreneurs to share their innovative ideas with a panel of judges and an audience for a chance to win seed money that could help grow or launch a small business.

The Pitchfest process is simple: 1.) All finalists will present their business ideas to our esteemed panel of judges and our live audience. Judges will be allowed to ask follow up questions, 2) After the conclusion of the pitches, our "investors" will choose which businesses they choose for their investments, 3) The Grand Prize winner of Pitchfest, selected by the panel of judges, will be announced along with the total amount of the grand prize ($2,000+).

The 2019 Pitchfest winner will receive $2,000 or more in seed money to start or grow their business, free Chamber membership under the Start-Up Package ($300 value), free Saipan Young Professionals Membership for one year ($50 value), recognition plaque/trophy, and a sponsored gift bag from community sponsors ($100 value).

The Chamber thanks all who have supported the entrepreneurs by purchasing tickets to the event. Half (1/2) of all ticket sales will go directly to the grand prize winner.

"We thank the following Pitchfest Investors for giving the wings to our entrepreneurs' ideas by investing in our event. Because of their support, many of our finalists will be walking away with seed money for their new businesses. Our Champion, Visionary, and Accelerator investors will all directly choose the business ideas they would like to invest in," a statement from the Chamber said.

The following companies have sponsored the corresponding sponsorship levels: Tan Siu Lin Foundation (Champion Investor); AC Pacific, LLC. dba "I Love Saipan" (Visionary Investor); IT&E, Friends First Marketing, Marianas Business Plaza, and Paradise Dental Spa (Accelerator Investors), and Aon Insurance and Hyatt Regency Saipan (Angel Investors).

Investments from the competition's Angel Investors will be pooled into the "Chamber's Choice" award selected by participating Chamber board of directors.

Additional thanks to the Pitchfest's event sponsors for supporting the gift bags and additional funding for our entrepreneurs: Isa Shaved Ice, First Hawaiian Bank, Pacifica Insurance, McDonald's of Saipan, Calvo's Insurance, and Vickie N. Izuka.

The Chamber is also grateful for the following Chamber mentors who volunteered their time to provide feedback to the finalists on their pitches: Secretary Mark Rabauliman (Department of Commerce), Donna Krum (Friends First Marketing), Glen Hunter (The Shack/The Airstream), Joe Guerrero (JZ Group/Naked Fish), Perry Inos Jr. (Triple J Saipan), and Nicole Babauta (CNMI SBDC).

This event would not be possible without our partnership with the CNMI Small Business Development Center. Thanks also go to Chamber director Nicole Babauta for investing time and energy into mentoring our finalists to get them ready to present their final pitches.

Tickets can be purchased until 2pm at the Chamber office located on the 3rd floor of the Marianas Business Plaza, Suite #315. Tickets can also be purchased at the door while supplies last. Those planning to attend the event are asked to arrive early and secure seats by 6pm, as pitches will promptly start at the beginning of the event.

For more information about the event or how to be a sponsor, contact Mercilynn Kaneshi Palec at (670) 234-7150 or email administrator@saipanchamber.com. ***(PR)***

Shirley's also offers catering service

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Shirley's Coffee Shop dining supervisors Ariel Drilon and Angelito Catungal, left, hold up the restaurant banner after a recent setup at Gold Beach Hotel along Beach Road. MARK RABAGO

Unbeknownst to many, Saipan and Guam's No. 1 neighborhood restaurant caters, too.

Shirley's Coffee Shop, known for its fried rice, has a catering service that offers everything in its bountiful menu and even dishes by demand.

Dining supervisor Angelito Catungal said the restaurant has always prided itself on its catering service, with Shirley's Coffee Shop a favorite of local and tourists alike on Saipan.

"We don't really advertise our catering service. It's mostly through word of mouth from our satisfied customers. But you really get quality and not only quantity in our catering. It's food from Shirley's, so you're always guaranteed that the food is really good," he said.

Shirley's Coffee Shop's catering service costs $12 per person at a minimum of 50 persons. It includes four main courses, excluding fried rice, your choice of salad or soup, and iced tea.

The package also includes two waitstaff, who will stay for three to four hours, and set up the buffet spread, like putting up the chafing dishes, tablecloth, iced tea and iced water dispensers, paper plates, plastic spoons and forks, and even napkins.

So far, the No. 1 choices for their catering service is a package of fried chicken, chop suey, spaghetti, and mahi-mahi, Catungal said.

Customers have also requested dishes like dinuguan, menudo, and afritada—dishes not found in the Shirley's Coffee Shop menu.

To make reservations for the catering service, Catungal advises customers to call Shirley's Coffee Shop at least a week in advance.

For more information on Shirley's Coffee Shop's catering service, call either the restaurant's Garapan branch at 233-4519/20 or its Susupe branch at 235-5379/80.

Shirley's Coffee Shop was founded in Guam in 1983 by the restaurant's iconic namesake, Shirley Lai. According to its website, the restaurant provides a casual dining alternative on Saipan and Guam.

Trump flip-flops on tax cuts, citing 'strong economy'

WASHINGTON (AP)—A day after considering cutting taxes to promote economic growth, President Donald Trump on Wednesday changed course and said he would abandon the idea because the nation already had "a strong economy."

Trump's flip-flop came after recent market volatility and economic uncertainty, and amid a debate about whether the United States was heading for a slowdown that would imperil his reelection chances. Trump earlier this week acknowledged, for the first time, that his China trade policies may mean economic pain for Americans, though he insisted the tariffs are needed for more important long-term benefits.

But his consideration of cutting payroll taxes appeared short-lived.

"I'm not looking at a tax cut now," he told reporters at the White House. "We don't need it. We have a strong economy."

Trump also knocked down the idea of indexing to the capital gains tax, which applies when investors sell assets, to inflation. He said he feared "it will be perceived, if I do it, as somewhat elitist."

Analysts have warned that a slowdown, if not full-blown recession, could hit before next year's election. Trump, however, has largely praised the economy's performance and his handling of it. He has often blamed the Federal Reserve (and Chairman Jerome Powell) and the global slowdown for creating dark clouds at home.

"Jay Powell and the Federal Reserve have totally missed the call. I was right and just about everybody admits that," Trump said Wednesday. "He raised interest rates too fast, too furious, and we have a normalized rate. And now we have to go the other direction."

Some White House advisers fear Trump has undercut Powell's credibility. They worry that the president's calls for rate cuts and his discussion of indexing or a payroll tax cut could spook, rather than reassure markets.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
26,202.73	2,924.43	8,020.21
+240.29	2,924.43	+71.65
.93%	0.82%	0.90%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.4780	Hong Kong Dollar	7.8418	Russian Ruble	65.7816
British Pound	0.8249	Indian Rupee	71.0065	Singapore Dollar	1.3858
Canadian Dollar	1.3312	Japanese Yen	106.3170	South Korean Won	1186.18
Chinese Yuan	6.9490	Malaysian Ringgit	4.1356	Swiss Franc	0.9824
Euro	0.9028	New Zealand Dollar	1.5672	Taiwan Dollar	30.8457
		Philippine Peso	51.3122	Thailand Baht	30.7425

Nation

Greenland fallout: Trump scolds Denmark over rejection

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP)—Escalating an international spat, President Donald Trump said Wednesday he scrapped his trip to Denmark because the prime minister made a "nasty" statement when she rejected his idea to buy Greenland as an absurdity.

"You don't talk to the United States that way, at least under me," Trump told reporters in Washington. "I thought it was not a nice statement, the way she blew me off."

Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen called the whole thing "an absurd discussion" and said she was "disappointed and surprised" that Trump had canceled his visit.

Trump said Frederiksen's comment labeling his idea as absurd "was nasty. I thought it was an inappropriate statement. All she had to say was say, 'No, we wouldn't be interested.'"

Greenland is a semi-autonomous territory of the U.S. ally, and Frederiksen said the U.S. remains one of Denmark's close allies.

Trump

The political brouhaha over the world's largest island comes from its strategic location in the Arctic. Global warming is making Greenland more accessible to potential oil and mineral resources. Russia, China, the U.S., Canada and other countries are racing to stake as strong a claim as they can to Arctic lands, hoping they will yield future riches.

Trump was scheduled to visit Denmark on Sept. 2-3 as part of a European tour. But early Wednesday, he tweeted his decision to indefinitely postpone the trip. The move stunned Danes and blindsided the Danish royal palace. Spokeswoman Lene Balleby told The Associated Press that it came as "a surprise" to the royal household, which had formally invited Trump.

The U.S. State Department said Secretary of State Mike Pompeo spoke Wednesday with his Danish counterpart and "expressed appreciation for Denmark's cooperation as one of the United States' allies and Denmark's contributions to address shared global security priorities."

Spokesperson Morgan Ortagus said Pompeo and Danish Minister of Foreign Affairs Jeppe Kofod "also discussed strengthening cooperation with the Kingdom of Denmark - including Greenland - in the Arctic."

On Tuesday, Trump tweeted, "Denmark is a very special country with incredible people, but based on Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen's comments, that she would have no interest in discussing the purchase of Greenland, I will be postponing our meeting scheduled in two weeks for another time."

The vast island of Greenland sits between the Atlantic and Arctic oceans, has a population of 56,000 and has 80% of its land mass covered by a 1.7 million-square-kilometer (660,000 square-mile) ice sheet.

For all of Greenland's appeal, scientists consider it the canary in the coal mine for climate change and say its massive ice sheet has seen one of its biggest melts on record this summer, contributing to a global rise in sea levels.

Trump signs student debt forgiveness for disabled veterans

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Hundreds of millions of dollars in federal student loan debt owed by tens of thousands of disabled military veterans will be erased under a directive President Donald Trump signed Wednesday.

Trump ordered the Education Department to "eliminate every penny of federal student loan debt" owed by American veterans who are completely and permanently disabled.

Trump said they won't have to pay federal income tax on the forgiven debt and called on states to waive their taxes on the loans, too.

America, he said, owes its heroes "a supreme debt of gratitude."

Trump's announcement at the AMVETS national convention in Louisville elicited a loud round of applause from the crowd of more than 2,500 veterans. He signed the directive after addressing the gathering.

Only about half of the roughly 50,000 disabled veterans who qualify to have their federal student loan debt forgiven have received the benefit, and the administration blames a "burdensome" application process.

The document directs the government to develop an expedited process so veterans can have the debt discharged "with minimal burdens."

The action will wipe out an average of $30,000 in debt owed by more than 25,000 eligible veterans, Trump said, calling them "incredible people" who have made "the ultimate sacrifice, in many ways, for our nation."

"It's gone forever," Trump said.

Trump also used his appearance to highlight steps the administration has taken to bolster the military, including increased spending and new equipment. He also discussed the administration's commitment to veterans, including helping them access health care, reducing opioid addiction and minimizing suicide among those no longer in uniform.

Trump said the administration is "determined to do everything in our power" to end suicide among veterans. About 20 veterans end their lives every day.

Trump promoted the drug Spravato, a new Johnson & Johnson nasal spray approved for treatment-resistant depression. He said he had instructed his administration to get as much of the drug as possible from the New Jersey-based consumer products company.

Trump said Johnson & Johnson has done so well and "made so much money" that they "should give it to us for free."

ACROSS THE NATION

Reported illness among vapers reaches 150 possible cases

NEW YORK (AP)—The number of breathing illnesses reported among people who vape is growing. Health officials are now looking into more than 150 possible cases in 16 states. Officials on Wednesday said the Food and Drug Administration has joined the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and states investigating reports from the last two months. All the illnesses were in teens or adults who had used an electronic cigarette or some other kind of vaping device. Doctors say the illnesses resemble an inhalation injury, with the lungs apparently reacting to a caustic substance. So far infectious diseases have been ruled out. No single vaping product or compound has been linked to all of the cases, and officials said it's not clear if there's a common cause. No deaths have been reported.

Priest accused of stealing nearly $100K from parish

DOWNINGTON, Pa. (AP)—A Pennsylvania Roman Catholic priest is accused of stealing nearly $100,000 from his parish and spending it on a beach house and men he met on dating apps. The Chester County District Attorney's Office says 56-year-old Monsignor Joseph McLoone was arrested Wednesday for theft from St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Downingtown. Prosecutors allege the priest diverted funds into secret accounts and misappropriated fees charged to parishioners. They say McLoone used the money for a beach house in Ocean City, New Jersey, as well as spending it on men he was dating. Prosecutors allege McLoone gave himself a raise by doubling the amount he collected as a stipend for each Mass, wedding and funeral. The Archdiocese of Philadelphia says McLoone is on leave and they're cooperating with authorities. No attorney is listed in court documents.

Air traveler accused of punching pilot at Vegas airport gate

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Authorities say an air traveler was detained by Las Vegas police after he punched an airline pilot at a McCarran International Airport gate where crew members determined he was too intoxicated to board a flight. Las Vegas police Officer Alejandra Zambrano says the pilot refused medical attention and the 49-year-old man was issued a misdemeanor battery summons after the incident a little before 2 p.m. Wednesday. The man's name, hometown and travel destination weren't immediately made public. Airport spokeswoman Christine Crews says the man struck the pilot twice after the pilot intervened in an argument between the man and crew members near Frontier Airlines gates. Frontier spokesman Zack Kramer says the airline is cooperating with police. He didn't respond to questions about the man's destination or the aircraft flight number.

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Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff, vs. EPHREM S. TAIMANAO and LUCIA M. TAIMANAO, dba JOE AND SONS ENTERPRISES, Defendants. — Civil Action No. 18-0018 (R) — AMENDED NOTICE OF AUCTION AND JUDICIAL SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property entered in the above titled action on February 15, 2019, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due to Plaintiff Bank of Guam from Defendants Ephrem S. Taimanao and Lucia M. Taimanao, dba Joe and Sons Enterprises, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on **October 3, 2019**, at **11:00 A.M**, at the **Rota Courthouse Lobby**, Rota, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot 345 R 200, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 345 R 05, the original of which was recorded 10 MAY 1984 as Document No. 84-751 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan, shall be sold to satisfy the foreclosure judgment entered by the Court.

Terms and Conditions of Sale:

1. Public Sale. The auction shall be open to the general public.
2. With Reserve. The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
3. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the action sale:
   a. to withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
   b. to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c. to reject any and all bids.
4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: (670) 234-7859; Fax: (670) 234-5749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com. Any person who submits his/her bid shall provide a copy of his/her valid Identification Card, or other legally acceptable form of identification. A written bid shall include the bidder's signature with his/her telephone number, mailing address, and any other contact information.
5. Deposit and Payment: A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the property, which will revert to Plaintiff Bank of Guam.
6. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and the Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.
7. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer. A copy of the appraisal report and other documents pertaining to the mortgaged property to be sold at public auction is available upon request. If necessary, a copy of the appraisal report will be provided to the Rota Bank of Guam Manager for Rota, for on-island bidders.

DATED this 6th day of August, 2019.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

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Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff, vs. EPHREM S. TAIMANAO and LUCIA M. TAIMANAO, dba JOE AND SONS ENTERPRISES, Defendants. — Civil Action No. 18-0019 (R) — AMENDED NOTICE OF AUCTION AND JUDICIAL SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property entered in the above titled action on February 15, 2019, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due to Plaintiff Bank of Guam from Defendants Ephrem S. Taimanao and Lucia M. Taimanao, dba Joe and Sons Enterprises, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on **October 3, 2019**, at **11:00 AM**, at the **Rota Courthouse Lobby**, Rota, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot 010 R 20, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 010 R 00 dated March 06, 1974, as Document No. 3438 at Land Registry, Saipan, which was recorded on June 17, 1997 as Document No. 97-1467 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

Terms and Conditions of Sale:

1. Public Sale. The auction shall be open to the general public.
2. With Reserve. The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
3. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the action sale:
   a. to withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
   b. to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c. to reject any and all bids.
4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: (670) 234-7859; Fax: (670) 234-5749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com. Any person who submits his/her bid shall provide a copy of his/her valid Identification Card, or other legally acceptable form of identification. A written bid shall include the bidder's signature with his/her telephone number, mailing address, and any other contact information.
5. Deposit and Payment: A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the property, which will revert to Plaintiff Bank of Guam.
6. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and the Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.
7. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer. A copy of the appraisal report and other documents pertaining to the mortgaged property to be sold at public auction is available upon request. If necessary, a copy of the appraisal report will be provided to the Rota Bank of Guam Manager for Rota, for on-island bidders.

DATED this 6th day of August, 2019.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Asia

India's 'patriotism pop' songs urge Hindus to claim Kashmir

AP

A screenshot of a patriotic music video on YouTube that appeared after India's Hindu-led nationalist government revoked the statehood of Kashmir on Aug. 5.

NEW DELHI (AP)—The music videos began appearing on social media within hours of the announcement by India's Hindu-led nationalist government that it was stripping statehood from the disputed region of Kashmir that had been in place for decades.

The songs delivered a message to India's 250 million YouTube users about moving to the Muslim-majority region, buying land there and marrying Kashmiri women.

It's the latest example of a growing genre in India known as "patriotism pop" — songs flooding social media about nationalism and the country's burgeoning right-wing ideology.

Earlier songs were limited to the rise of Hindus in India, defeating regional rival Pakistan and hoisting the Indian flag in every household. Now, they include settling in Kashmir — a rugged and beautiful Himalayan region claimed by both Pakistan and India, although both countries control only a portion of it .

On Aug. 5, Prime Minister Narendra Modi revoked Kashmir's decades-old special status that was guaranteed under Article 370 of India's Constitution and sent thousands of troops to the region. The move has touched off anger in the Indian-controlled region, which has been under a security lockdown that has seen thousands detained to prevent protests there.

One of Modi's revisions allows anyone to buy land in the territory, which some Kashmiris fear could mean an influx of Hindus who would change the region's culture and demographics. Critics have likened it to Israeli settlements in Palestinian territories.

The patriotic songs are mostly shared on platforms like Facebook, Twitter and the fast-growing app TikTok, which in June had about 120 million active users in India. Despite their low production values, poorly matched lip-synching and repetitive techno beat, many of these soundtracks have gotten millions of hits on YouTube.

The songs are a hit among youthful followers in northern and eastern parts of India, and their creators don't seem to be stopping anytime soon.

Nitesh Singh Nirmal identifies himself as a producer, songwriter and composer for his Rang Music studios in the eastern state of Bihar. A Modi admirer, Nirmal claims to be the first to produce a soundtrack on the revocation of Kashmir's statehood, completing it in three hours.

The song, "Dhara 370," or "Article 370," starts with visuals of an Indian flag fluttering atop New Delhi's famous Red Fort, followed by old footage of Modi from a previous Independence Day ceremony. The singer thanks Modi and his government for keeping his promise to remove Article 370 from the constitution. The video then cuts to the map of Kashmir, along with words that roughly translate to how Pakistan has lost to India.

The song has gotten more than 1.6 million hits on YouTube since it was posted there by Nirmal, who has no musical background. He said he only found his calling when Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party resoundingly won the 2014 election.

That's when Nirmal thought he could write songs about nationalism.

"I am doing service for the nation. People dance to these songs," he says.

Nirmal's claims about their popularity aren't far-fetched. TikTok, which lets the user lip-synch to music and make short vines, is flooded with images of Hindu nationalists declaring plans to go to Kashmir and marry women there. Most of the videos have music similar to the kind produced by Nirmal.

In April, TikTok was removed from Android and iPhone app stores after an Indian court ruled it was "encouraging pornography."

The rising appeal for songs that promote nationalism and talk about reclaiming Kashmir have paved the way for lesser-known artists to join in.

Salman Siddiqui, who is in his 20s and studies science in the state of Uttar Pradesh, wanted to showcase his musical writing prowess and contacted Nirmal. They collaborated on a song about a man who is seeking a Kashmiri bride and wants to be the first to have a wedding procession that travels from India to the region.

Nirmal and Siddiqui insist the songs are not sexist.

"It's the desire of a young man's heart to marry a Kashmiri woman," Siddiqui says.

The idea was boosted Aug. 6 by lawmaker Vikram Saini, who told members of his Bharatiya Janata Party "eager to get married" to go to Kashmir, adding that his party "no problem with it."

Rohingya still fear safety in Myanmar, repatriation unlikely

COX'S BAZAR, Bangladesh (AP)—The repatriation of hundreds of Rohingya Muslims appeared unlikely to proceed as planned Thursday after those who were eligible told the U.N. refugee agency and the Bangladesh government they didn't want to return to Myanmar unless their citizenship and safety were ensured.

"We have not found anybody yet who has agreed to go back, but all our preparations are in place," said Khaled Hossain, a senior official with the Refugee, Relief and Rehabilitation commissioner's office.

Members of at least 221 Rohingya Muslim families were interviewed Wednesday and Tuesday ahead of the repatriation that was scheduled to start Thursday. Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said her government will not force the refugees to return and the repatriation will only happen if they are willing.

Myanmar has certified 3,450 refugees from 1,056 families as eligible for repatriation from Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar district, where about 1 million Rohingya refugees are sheltered.

Myanmar's military began a harsh counterinsurgency campaign against Rohingya Muslims in August 2017 in response to an insurgent attack. More than 700,000 Rohingya fled what has been called an ethnic cleansing campaign involving mass rapes, killings and burning of thousands of their homes. Buddhist-majority

The U.N. refugee agency "is working with concerned governments to help create conditions conducive to return, to assess whether or not these people are going back voluntarily," U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said in New York.

"The voluntary nature of repatriation is really a bedrock of our position," he said.

Dujarric said Secretary-General Antonio Gutteres, a former U.N. refugee chief, has stressed that it's important for refugees to have the information they need to decide whether or not to return.

An earlier repatriation attempt last November was suspended because no one was willing to go back. Thousands of refugees protested and chanted "We won't go back" and "We want justice," forcing authorities to halt the process.

This time, the camps have been quiet with no reports of major protests ahead of Thursday's plan.

Bangladesh refugee commissioner Abul Kalam was happy with that.

"This is a good sign and I think this is a good progress. Last year they fled their camp homes as the day neared, but this time they are coming forward and facing interviews and talking freely," Kalam said Wednesday. "They have confidence in us."

Kalim Ullah, a refugee on the repatriation list, said his family wants to go back but Myanmar must ensure that they would be given citizenship and safety.

Many said they want to go back under direct U.N. supervision, not under the Myanmar government.

"We want to go back home. Bangladesh is not our country. But we still do not have any guarantee that we will not be tortured or killed," Ullah said as he left the interview room.

Myanmar has long not recognized Rohingya as citizens, rendering them stateless, and they face other forms of state-sanctioned discrimination.

Hong Kong police in standoff with protesters after sit-in

HONG KONG (AP)—Hong Kong riot police faced off briefly with protesters occupying a suburban train station Wednesday evening following a commemoration of a violent attack there by masked assailants against supporters of the anti-government movement.

Near the end of the event, the police began what they called a "dispersal operation, using minimum force" after some protesters blocked roads and flashed laser pointers at officers.

Police with riot shields faced off at the station entrance against a group of remaining protesters, who sprayed a firehose and spread soap on the floor to slow a police approach, while piling up trash bins, a wheelchair and umbrellas in a makeshift blockade.

They also discharged fire extinguishers, creating a cloud obscuring visibility. The station's entrance shutters were lowered, barricading the protesters inside.

The confrontation ended without further incident, as police retreated and protesters left on trains.

The black-clad protesters flooded earlier into Yuen Long station to commemorate the July 21 rampage by a group of men suspected of organized crime links, in what was a shocking escalation of the city's summer of protest.

The protesters observed a moment of silence, then covered their right eyes, a reference to a woman who reportedly suffered a severe eye injury from a police projectile.

Many sat on the station floor, while others walked slowly around the concourse in a protest march.

Chanting "Liberate Hong Kong" and "Revolution of our times," they also drew attention to what they say is the lack of progress by police in investigating the attack, which left both protesters and bystanders injured. Protesters have accused the police of colluding with the attackers by delaying their response, but authorities have denied it.

Police say they have arrested 28 people in connection with the attack but haven't charged anyone yet. They say some of those arrested have triad links, referring to organized crime syndicates.

The anti-government protests began more than two months ago and have spiraled into a political crisis, with supporters demanding full democracy and an investigation into alleged police brutality.

The Yuen Long attack came after a massive protest was winding down in July. The assailants, all clad in white in contrast to the protesters' black, swung wooden poles and steel rods, injuring 45 people.

World

Bolsonaro suggests NGOs setting Amazon fires, gives no proof

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Brazil's official monitoring agency is reporting a sharp increase in wildfires this year, and President Jair Bolsonaro suggested Wednesday, without citing evidence, that nongovernmental organizations could be setting them to make him look bad.

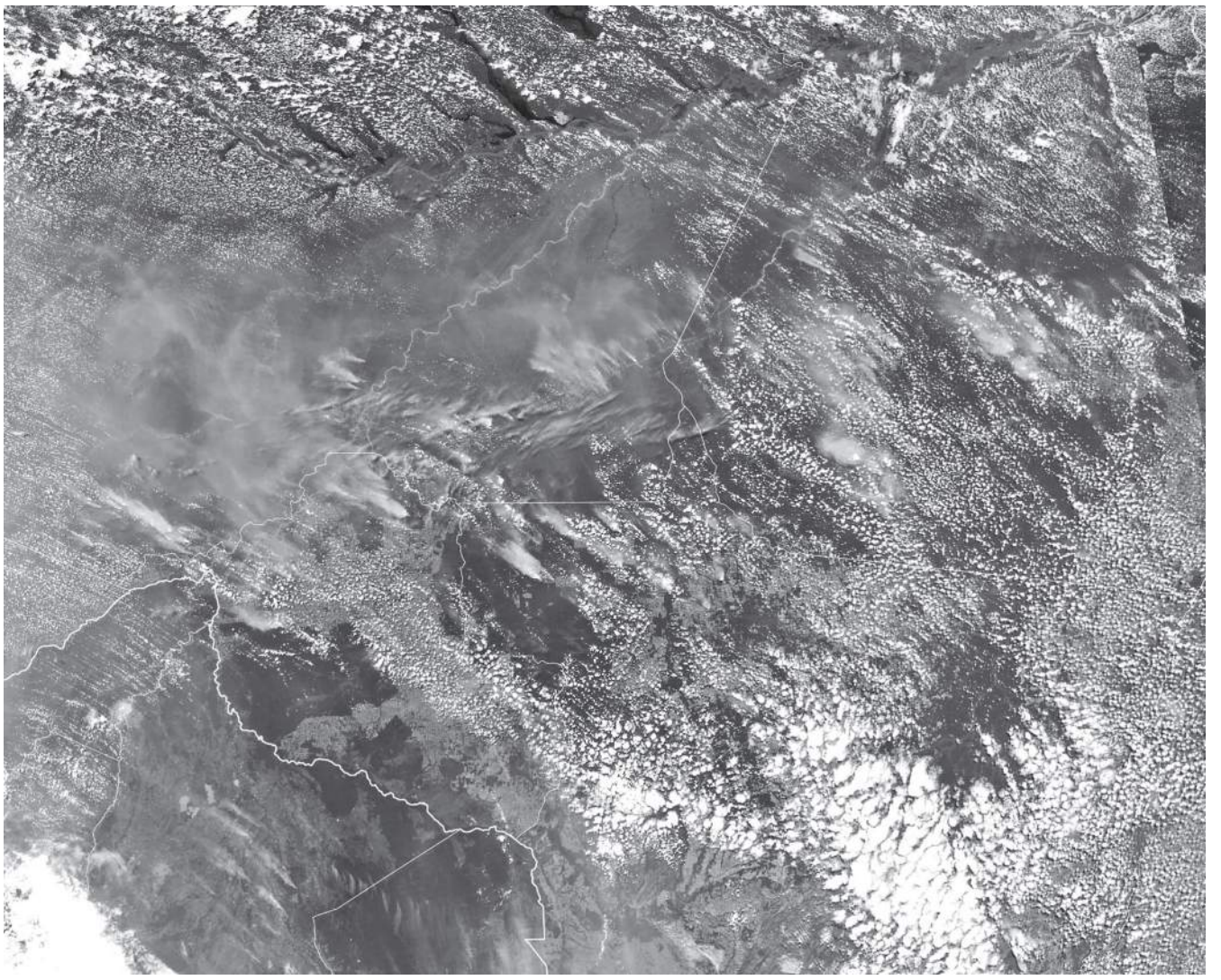
Brazil's National Institute for Space Research, a federal agency monitoring deforestation and wildfires, said the country has seen a record number of wildfires this year, counting 74,155 as of Tuesday, an 84 percent increase compared to the same period last year. Bolsonaro took office on Jan. 1.

"Maybe—I am not affirming it—these (NGO people) are carrying out some criminal actions to draw attention against me, against the government of Brazil," Bolsonaro told reporters.

When asked if he had evidence, the president did not provide any.

"There is a war going on in the world against Brazil, an information war," Bolsonaro said.

Earlier this month, the head of the space research institute was forced to leave his position after standing up to the president's accusations that deforestation data had been manipulated to tarnish the image of his administration.



AP

This satellite image provided by NASA on Aug. 13, 2019 shows several fires burning in the Brazilian Amazon forest.

The states that have been most affected by fires this year are Mato Grosso, Para and Amazonas—all in the Amazon region—accounting for 41.7 percent of all fires.

"It is very difficult to have natural fires in the Amazon; it happens but the majority come from the hand of humans," said Paulo Moutinho, co-founder of the Amazon Environmental Research Institute.

Moutinho, who has been working in the Amazon forests for nearly 30 years, said fires are mostly used to clean up vast areas of land for farming or logging.

The fires can easily get out of control, especially now during the Amazon's dry season, and spread to densely forested protected areas.

This year, the Amazon has not suffered from serious dryness, Moutinho said. "We're lucky. If we had had droughts like in the past four years, this would be even worse."

Bolsonaro, who once threatened to leave the Paris climate accord, has repeatedly attacked environmental nonprofits, seen as obstacles in his quest to develop the country's full economic potential, including in protected areas.

Bolsonaro and Environment Minister Ricardo Salles are both close to the powerful rural caucus in Congress and have been urging more development and economic opportunities in the Amazon region, which they consider overly protected by current legislation.

Some NGOs, environmentalists and academics have been blaming the administration's pro-development policies for a sharp increase in Amazon deforestation shown in the latest data from the space research institute.

The government is also facing international pressure to protect the vast rainforest from illegal logging or mining activities. The Amazon is often referred to as the lungs of our planet because it is a major absorber of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

WORLD BRIEFS

Putin says US missile test raises new threats to Russia

HELSINKI (AP)—Russian President Vladimir Putin said Wednesday that the test of a new U.S. missile banned under a now-defunct arms treaty has raised new threats to Russia and will warrant a response. The U.S. tested a modified ground-launched version of a Navy Tomahawk cruise missile that accurately struck its target more than 500 kilometers (310 miles) away. Sunday's test came after the U.S. and Russia withdrew from the 1987 Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty that banned such weapons. Speaking after talks Wednesday with Finnish President Sauli Niinisto, Putin argued that the quick test indicated the U.S. had begun work on the missile long before declaring its intention to withdraw from the pact. "The Americans have tested this missile too quickly after having withdrawn from the treaty," Putin said. "That gives us strong reason to believe that they had started work to adapt the sea-launched missile long before they began looking for excuses to opt out of the treaty." The U.S. has explained its withdrawal from the treaty by Russian violations—the claim Moscow has denied.

Trump: Germany, France must take back Islamic State fighters

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump challenged France, Germany and other countries on Wednesday to take back citizens captured fighting for the Islamic State group in Syria and Iraq. Otherwise, he warned, the U.S. "will have no choice but to release them into the countries from which they came." Trump said the U.S. and its allies are holding "thousands" of Islamic State fighters after forcing the extremist group to abandon the last territory it held in Syria. But the president told reporters at the White House that European countries need to take back their citizens who joined the extremist group and are now being held prisoner. He said the U.S. will not hold them at its base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, "for the next 50 years and pay for it." Trump signed an executive order shortly after taking office to keep open the detention center at Guantanamo, reversing an eight-year effort by President Barack Obama to shut it down. But no new detainees have been sent to the base in Cuba, where the U.S. still holds 40 men.

Thousands interested in Dutch idea for Brexit beach party

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)—As the deadline for Britain to quit the European Union approaches, thousands of people are expressing interest in a Brexit beach party in the Netherlands to say a fond farewell. By Wednesday morning, nearly 10,000 people had signed up on Facebook to attend the proposed event that would allow people to sit in deck chairs looking out to sea as "Great Britain wakes up as a closed institution" while enjoying "Dutch chips, French wine and German beer." Another 63,000 have expressed interest in the Oct. 31 party at Wijk aan Zee, 30 kilometers (19 miles) northwest of Amsterdam. The plan is the brainchild of documentary maker Ron Toekook, who is amazed by the attention it is garnering and now is in the process of trying to make sure it actually happens. He got the idea from a vacation in Hawaii, when he saw people head to the beach, drinks in hand, to watch the sun set.

As Trump questions loyalty of US Jews, Israeli PM is quiet

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel's prime minister on Wednesday steered clear of Donald Trump's comments questioning the loyalty of American Jews who support the Democratic Party, in sharp contrast to the tide of condemnation from Jewish critics who accused him of trafficking in anti-Semitic stereotypes.

Benjamin Netanyahu's decision to keep quiet on the controversy reflected the importance of his close alliance with Trump—a relationship that has dented the bipartisan support Israel has traditionally enjoyed in Washington as well as Israel's equally important ties with the American Jewish community.

With an eye on re-election, Trump has attempted to use his close ties with Netanyahu to win over Jewish voters, who overwhelmingly vote for Democrats. Critics say it is part of a broader strategy that has also targeted minorities and immigrants with sometimes racist rhetoric in an attempt to shore up his base of white, working-class voters.

Most recently, Trump has focused these efforts on trying to paint Democratic congresswomen Ilhan Omar of Minnesota and Rashida Tlaib as the face of the Democratic Party.

Last week, Netanyahu barred the two women, who are both Muslim and outspoken critics of Israel, from visiting his country after a public appeal by Trump. Democratic leaders, who only days earlier had visited Israel in a show of bipartisan support, criticized the Israeli decision.

"Where has the Democratic Party gone? Where have they gone where they are defending these two people over the state of Israel?" Trump told reporters in the Oval Office on Tuesday. "I think any Jewish people that vote for a Democrat, I think it shows either a total lack of knowledge or great disloyalty."

The comments triggered an outpouring of condemnations from Jewish American groups and Democratic lawmakers, who accused Trump of invoking anti-Semitic stereotypes by implying American Jews have dual loyalty to the United States and Israel. At a time of rising anti-Semitism in the U.S., some expressed fear that Trump's words could invite new violence against Jewish targets.

But Netanyahu remained silent about the latest uproar. His office declined comment, while Yuval Steinitz, a Cabinet minister in Netanyahu's Likud party who is close to the prime minister, dismissed it as internal U.S. politics.

"We mustn't intervene in the elections and the political disagreements in the United States," Steinitz told Israel Radio. "We have close supporters and friends in both parties, Democrats and Republicans, both Jews and non-Jews, and we embrace everyone and want everyone's support and friendship."

Science & Technology

1994 technology slowed search for serial killer

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP)—It wasn't hard for Daytona Beach police to figure out who killed John Hardy Roberts in March 1994: Gary Ray Bowles left a probation document at the scene and also was caught on an ATM camera trying to withdraw money from Roberts' account. He later confessed.

What proved more difficult was capturing him, something they were unable to do until after five other men in three states had been slain.

"One of the things that's always stayed in the back of my mind is how horrible we feel that we didn't solve it quickly when we were the first," said Alison Sylvester, a former Daytona Beach police detective who investigated Roberts' death. "It was just a sign of the times. We didn't have the quick access (to information). Law enforcement has a lot more tools at their disposal now."

Bowles is scheduled to die by lethal injection at the Florida State Prison on Thursday for the murder of Walter Hinton—the last of six men whom he confessed to killing over an eight-month period.

Hinton was killed in Jacksonville Beach. The four other victims were slain in Nassau County, Florida; Atlanta; Savannah, Georgia ; and Rockville, Maryland. Bowles met his victims in gay bars, and in each case the victims were found with objects shoved down their throats: a towel, toilet paper, dirt and leaves, and in one case a sex toy, prosecutors have said.

Bowles later confessed to all six killings, but has been tried, convicted and sentenced to death only for Hinton's. He pleaded guilty to the other two Florida slayings and was sentenced to life without parole for each. Authorities in Georgia and Maryland planned to proceed with prosecutions in those states if he wasn't convicted in Florida.

Bowles

Former Savannah police detective John Best recalls how hard it was to keep up with Bowles' movements. In the late 1990s, police departments didn't have the sophisticated photo-editing and information-sharing technology they do today.

Best received a paper copy of a composite sketch of Bowles from a Florida department in which the suspect was depicted as cleanshaven; witnesses said the man they saw with victim Milton Bradley had a mustache.

"I took a fine-tip pen and drew a mustache on his composite," Best said. "I took it to some witnesses and they said, 'Definitely, that's him.'"

Best also recalls going through parking tickets by hand to find one written for a stolen car in which Bowles was traveling. Photographs and copies of Bowles' fingerprints arrived by overnight mail instead of being sent electronically in an instant, as they are today.

"Technology absolutely would have sped things, between examining the fingerprints, the physical evidence, the photographs," Best said. "We didn't have email. We either called, faxed or your secretaries took notes."

Detectives learned the direction in which Bowles was traveling and tracked purchases he made on stolen credit cards, but by the time they passed the information along, Bowles was off to a new city. Police departments communicated with each other by teletype machines, which printed paper messages not seen until someone physically walked over to check them.

"A couple of days had passed before we were able to get information to know where to go," Sylvester said, adding that it took just as long to get responses to subpoenas "or even video surveillance that nowadays would have been almost instantaneous."

Walmart now lets you instantly purchase ingredients in Buzzfeed's Tasty videos

By DOREEN CHRISTENSEN
SUN SETINEL

If binge watching Tasty videos is making you hungry, Walmart has you covered.

The world's largest retailer has stirred up a new way to shop for groceries, letting customers purchase ingredients featured in 4,000 Buzzfeed Tasty videos with one click, Walmart announced Tuesday.

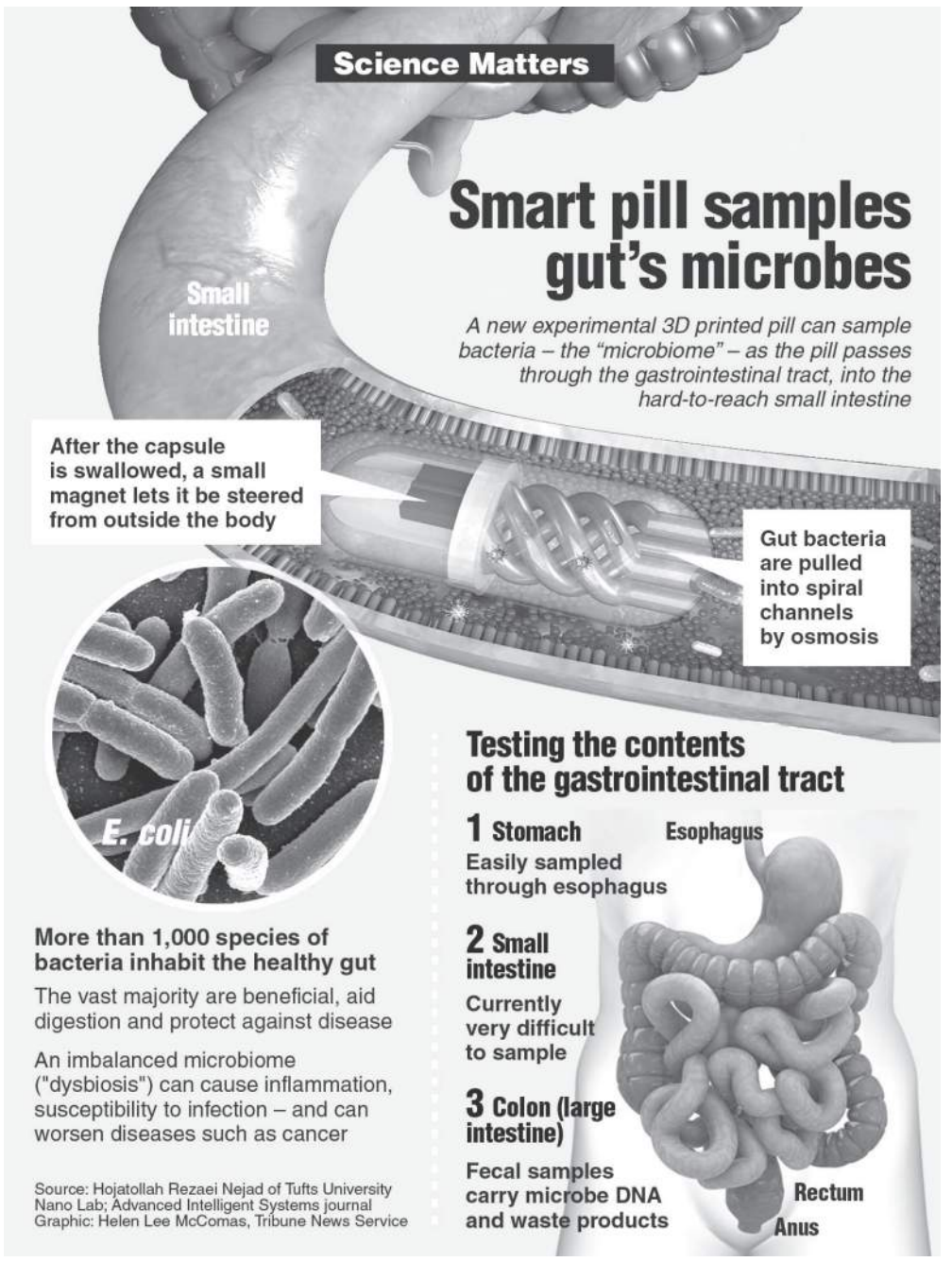
Want to make the perfect chocolate chip cookie or mozzarella-stuffed slow cooker meatballs? Easy-peasy. The new "shoppable recipes" partnership allows customers watching videos on the Tasty app to add the ingredient lists to Walmart Online Grocery carts. Users are then directed to the Walmart Grocery app or desktop site to place orders and schedule pickup or delivery.

The move is designed to appeal to tech-savvy younger shoppers who are demanding value and convenience. Retailers are searching for creative ways to link online shoppers with brick-and-mortar stores. Macy's and JCP Penney are bringing the thrill of thrifting to a department store near you with ThredUp parTnerships.

Tasty bills itself as the "world's largest food network" at Tasty.co. The cooking and recipe franchise has become a content juggernaut for Buzzfeed. The Buzzfeed Tasty page on Facebook has more than 100 million followers. The free Tasty app, for iOS and Android allows users to easily save and organize recipes, which is difficult on Facebook.

The online transactions work using a Northfork platform that integrates Walmart's online sites with Tasty's content. Geo-location allows Walmart to match the recipe's ingredients to the products available at the closest store. Customers can edit items in carts based on price, brand or dietary preferences.

"Finding that perfect recipe, creating a grocery list and finally getting to the store can keep any chef out of the kitchen," said Janey Whiteside, Walmart's chief customer officer, in a news release. "We're excited to create a fun solution that feeds customers appetites to put time back in their busy schedules all while saving money with Walmart's everyday low prices."


Science Matters
Smart pill samples gut's microbes
A new experimental 3D printed pill can sample bacteria – the "microbiome" – as the pill passes through the gastrointestinal tract, into the hard-to-reach small intestine
Small intestine
After the capsule is swallowed, a small magnet lets it be steered from outside the body
Gut bacteria are pulled into spiral channels by osmosis
E. coli
More than 1,000 species of bacteria inhabit the healthy gut
The vast majority are beneficial, aid digestion and protect against disease
An imbalanced microbiome ("dysbiosis") can cause inflammation, susceptibility to infection – and can worsen diseases such as cancer
Testing the contents of the gastrointestinal tract
1 Stomach
Easily sampled through esophagus
2 Small intestine
Currently very difficult to sample
3 Colon (large intestine)
Fecal samples carry microbe DNA and waste products
Esophagus
Rectum
Anus
Source: Hojatollah Rezaei Nejad of Tufts University Nano Lab; Advanced Intelligent Systems journal
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

TECH Q&A: That undelivered email notice for mail you didn't send is spam

By STEVE ALEXANDER
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune*. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.*

Q: I received Gmail notifications from the "mailer-daemon" that an e-mail message I sent couldn't be delivered. But I never sent that message. So far, I've changed my Gmail password and switched to using my Yahoo Mail account instead. But the "mailer-daemon" notifications are now showing up in my Yahoo e-mail (the "alternate e-mail address" for my Gmail account.) What should I do? Block the sender?

A: The real "mailer-daemon" software notifies you when a legitimate e-mail you sent can't be delivered. But when the notification is for an e-mail you didn't send, you are getting spam.

You could have gotten it for a couple of reasons. Someone online may have taken over your Gmail account and used it to send spam. When the spam couldn't be delivered, it bounced back to you. Alternatively, a spammer may be trying to provoke you into responding, "But I never sent that e-mail!" If you respond to or block the sender, you're telling the spammer that a) your e-mail address works and b) you may be inclined to respond to other bogus e-mail in the future.

Do two things. Download the free version of the Malwarebytes (see tinyurl.com/y5c375y8) security program, which will eliminate any PC malware that might be generating the warnings. Then delete the mailer-daemon messages or send them to your Gmail and Yahoo spam filters. The latter will help Gmail and Yahoo filter out this type of spam before it reaches you.

Q: How can I turn off automatic webpage refreshes in Windows 10? I often lose the spot where I was reading when a new version of the webpage appears.

A: It isn't a Windows 10 issue; it's a web-browser problem.

If you view websites that refresh their content regularly (as news websites often do), your browser automatically loads the latest version of the webpage _ whether or not you were finished reading the old version.

You can turn off these automatic webpage updates if you use the Mozilla Firefox or Microsoft Internet Explorer browsers (see tinyurl.com/y4tbsay6). You can't turn off the automatic updates if you use the Microsoft Edge or Google Chrome browsers. (Note: There's a way to turn off Chrome updates included in the tinyurl above, but it no longer works.)

Q: I made the leap from Windows 7 to Windows 10. How can I move my programs and data to the new PC?

A: Data can be moved via flash drive. But programs must be reinstalled on the new PC.

If you have an original copy of a program on a disc, or a copy of a downloaded program that you can put on a flash drive, you should be able to install it on the new computer. If you don't have a disc or flash-drive copy of a program, you may have to buy a new copy of the software.

Microsoft Office is a special case. Most copies of Office 2010, 2013 and 2016 and the online Office 365 can be transferred by switching the software license from the old PC to the new one. But you have to go through a lot of steps to do it (see tinyurl.com/y4n6nq25).

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Germany: 8-year-old goes on highway joyride with mom's car

BERLIN (AP)—Police say an 8-year-old boy took his mom's car and went for a nighttime joyride on a highway in western Germany. Soest police said the boy's mother called them early Wednesday after she noticed that both her son and her VW Golf had disappeared. Mother and police eventually found the boy at a highway service area where he'd parked the car, turned on the hazard lights and put up the warning triangle. According to police, the boy said he started feeling "uncomfortable" once he hit 140 kph (87 mph) on the highway. The boy's mother said her son regularly drives go-carts and bumper cars and has in the past practiced driving a real car on private property. The legal age for driving in Germany is 18.

TSA says traveler forgot snake at Newark security checkpoint

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—A young girl discovered something slithery at a New Jersey airport security checkpoint: a 15-inch-long snake. Transportation Security Administration officials at Newark Liberty International Airport said in a release that it appears the thin, black snake with a yellow ring around its neck was forgotten by a traveler Monday night. The girl alerted a TSA officer and a grey checkpoint bin was placed over the snake that officials said was harmless. Officials closed the security lane temporarily and Port Authority police took the snake away. New Jersey Federal Security Director Tom Carter said in the release that Newark has a robust lost and found system, but that the owner of the snake should not call them or expect to be reunited with the reptile. It's unclear where the snake was taken.

Woman thought she had kidney stones, gave birth to triplets

STURGIS, S.D. (AP)—A South Dakota woman who recently gave birth to triplets says she didn't find out about her pregnancy until she went to the hospital with what she thought were kidney stones. KOTA-TV reports Dannette Giltz, of Sturgis, gave birth to the healthy triplets on Aug. 10. Giltz says that despite having two other children, she did not know she was 34 weeks pregnant. She says that when she started having pains, she thought it was from kidney stones, which she has had before. Doctors told her she was actually in labor—with multiple babies. The triplets were born within four minutes. Each weighed about 4 pounds (1.8 kilograms). The babies' names are Blaze, Gypsy and Nikki.

Trooper finds parked driver playing Pokemon Go on 8 phones

BURIEN, Wash. (AP)—A Washington state trooper who pulled over to help what he thought was a disabled vehicle found something else instead: The driver had eight phones simultaneously playing the video game Pokemon Go. The driver was stopped on the shoulder of Highway 518 in Burien, south of Seattle, on Tuesday evening. The agency tweeted a photo showing a blue foam square, with the phones sitting in eight rectangular cutouts. Trooper Rick Johnson is a spokesman for the patrol and said Sgt. Kyle Smith did not issue a ticket because he did not observe the car moving while the driver was using the phones. But Smith asked the driver to put the phones in the back seat and move along, because stopping on the shoulder is for emergencies only.

Time capsule from 50 years ago has nothing inside

DERRY, N.H. (AP)—Officials in a New Hampshire town are trying to figure out how a recently opened time capsule from 50 years ago has nothing in it. Library director Cara Potter in Derry tells WMUR-TV that since she started there five years ago, the safe has been sitting on a shelf. Before that, it was kept at the old municipal building in town. The combination was on the back of the safe. Potter said it took several tries to get it open recently on the 50th anniversary of when it was sealed in 1969. But it was empty. No one has a list of what was originally put inside. Officials said they have no idea who could have opened it and taken the items. They even speculated that nothing was put in there in the first place.

ILLEGAL SHIPMENT U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION VIA AP

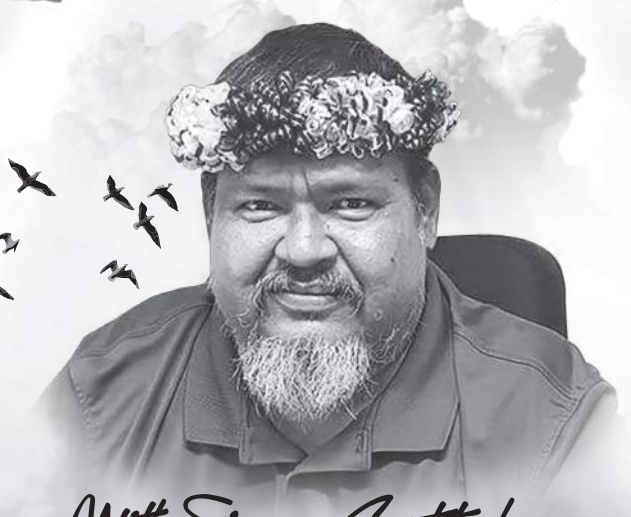
This Thursday, Aug 15, 2019, photo released by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection shows marijuana mixed in with a shipment of jalapeno peppers seized by CBP officers in San Diego's Otay Mesa, Calif. Officials say they seized $2.3 million worth of marijuana at the Southern California port.

Message of Appreciation

†Freddy Untalan Hofschneider, Jr.

Lovingly known as "Ding"

Born to Life: October 2, 1963 • Called to Life: August 3, 2019



With Sincere Gratitude

There are not enough words to fully express our profound and humble appreciation for being blessed with an abundance of Support, Prayers, Sympathy, Words of Wisdom, Many acts of Kindness and most of all the Unconditional Love you all have shown us after the passing of our Dearly Beloved Brother †Freddy. A wonderful husband, father, grandfather, brother & friend that will forever be treasured.

Your presence during the daily masses, Rosary and the Mass of Christian Burial has given us strength to carry on. We are forever grateful for all you have done for us during the time of grief. The love and support you have given us will always be cherished and remembered.

Un Sen Dangkulo na Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Olomwaay, Thank you and God Bless us All.

Rinenta Rokop Hofschneider, children and grandchildren
Hofschneider Family

1ST YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY

January 21, 1930 to September 2, 2018

†Dilwei Agnes Skilang Sablan

In celebration of the 1st Year Death Anniversary of our beloved Mother, Grandmother, Great-Grandmother's passing, we the family of the late **†Dilwei Agnes Skilang Sablan** are inviting all our family and relatives to join us for daily mass starting August 25 at the following Parishes –

8/25/19 (Sunday)	10:00am	St. Jude Parish
8/26/19 (Monday)	6:00pm	St. Jude Parish
8/27/19 (Tuesday)	6:00pm	San Antonio Parish
8/28/19 (Wednesday)	6:00pm	San Antonio Parish
8/29/19 (Thursday)	6:00pm	St. Jude Parish
8/30/19 (Friday)	6:00pm	St. Jude Parish
8/31/19 (Saturday)	6:00pm	San Antonio Parish
9/01/19 (Sunday)	10:00am	St. Jude Parish

On our Beloved's **Day of Remembrance - September 2, 2019**, we will celebrate mass at 11:00am at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral.

Mesulang, Si Yu'us Maase and Thank You for your prayers and love.

Mike & Violy (Stephen, Zack, Adam),
Virg & Andy (Matthew, Kaela), Cathy
(Cyji & JJ, Charles Pablo, Jose),
our †Brothers children and families

Life & Style

Could we BE any more excited? 'Friends' fans nuts for merch

By LEANNE ITALIE
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—See your "Friends" on the big screen. Deck out your place with "Friends" decor. Wear your "Friends" as jewelry. Heck, buy the "Friends" Lego set and pretend it's for your kid.

If you're a "Friends" superfan, there are lots of ways to celebrate the show's 25th anniversary in September.

"It transcends generations," Maryellen Zarakas, a Warner Bros. senior vice president, said of the show that ended in 2004 after 10 seasons. "Everybody still goes through growing up into your 20s when you get your first job, your first heartbreak, your first time your friends really become your family."

The studio has partnered with a range of companies to celebrate the quarter-century mark. Here's a look at some of the fun:

AP

In this Sept. 22, 2002 file photo, the stars of «Friends,» from left, David Schwimmer, Lisa Kudrow, Matthew Perry, Courteney Cox Arquette, Jennifer Aniston and Matt LeBlanc pose after the show won outstanding comedy series at the 54th Annual Primetime Emmy Awards, at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles.

THE FATHOM EVENT

Fans broke Fathom Events' website, for about 15 minutes anyway, when tickets went on sale for three days of movie house screenings of popular episodes. A dozen episodes are hitting movie theaters Sept. 23, 28 and Oct. 2. Each night includes four "Friends" episodes that have been newly remastered in 4K from the original 35mm camera negatives. There will also be never-before-seen extras.

"It's those really iconic moments that people want to see over and over again," Zarakas said. "That's how the Fathom Event came about."

Tom Lucas, a Fathom vice president, said the idea was to "allow a group of friends, for lack of a better word, go together and enjoy it on the big screen."

Fathom has more than 1,400 theaters on board. That amounts to well over 200,000 seats available each night, making it the largest Fathom Event ever, Lucas said.

THE BLING

The moments, the one-liners, the memories. You can have them all in accessories from the eco-conscious Alex and Ani. The brand has created a seven-piece "Friends" capsule line of mostly charm bracelets to mark the anniversary.

Choose from a "pivot, pivot, pivot" theme, one with a lobster and "you're my lobster" charms or Joey's "how you doin?" line, among others. The Central Perk logo, the famous picture frame and the "Friends" logo bar are also available. Prices range from $39 to $49 on Alexandani.com.

THE POP-UPS

In New York, tickets sold out in two hours for "The One with the Pop-Up" immersive experience in Manhattan. The monthlong pop-up opens Sept. 7 and runs through Oct. 6. It includes Central Perk, props for photos, and some of the iconic looks for Ross, Rachel, Joey, Monica, Chandler and Phoebe.

"It's for the ultimate 'Friends' fan," Zarakas said. "You can peek through Rachel and Monica's very famous purple door. You can relax on Chandler and Joey's recliner."

Lines have been around the corner for the Central Perk pop-up in Santa Monica, California. The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf created a 'gram-worthy "Friends" experience, orange couch included. There's memorabilia from the sitcom and specialty drinks named for its cast: The Rachel Matcha Latte, The Joey Mango Cold Brew Tea and The Phoebe Cookies & Cream Ice Blend among them.

The Coffee Bean did the same pop-up in West Hollywood. Both end Friday.

THE DECOR

Could we BE any more excited?

Pottery Barn takes a turn at "Friends"' merch with everything from mugs to tea towels and a reissue of the famous apothecary coffee table that Rachel tried to pass off as flea market to roommate Phoebe, who was not a Pottery Barn fan.

The Season 6 episode was aptly named "The One with the Apothecary Table." The collection also includes throw pillows adorned with Monica's purple apartment door, the tufted Central Perch couch and classic quotes like "Joey Doesn't Share Food."

Pottery Barn even threw in wall art memorializing the show's theme song and a doormat with the series' logo.

Shop online at PotteryBarn.com but beware, some items have already sold out.

THE LEGOS

Is your brick building stuck in second gear? Maybe a Central Perk set will help. It goes on sale Sept. 1 for $59.99 at Lego stores and on Lego.com.

The collectible set recreates the gang's coffee shop and comes with figures of the six buddies, plus Gunther. There's a seating area, including—YES—the couch, an armchair and two other chairs.

Builders can construct the stage where Phoebe performed with her guitar. There's a brick-built coffee machine, walls, a window with the Central Perk logo, TV studio light rigs, coffee mugs and the familiar low coffee table.

Lego designer Aymeric Fievet submitted the concept through the Lego Ideas platform, a way for brick fans to weigh in on new projects.

"It's the fans who really wanted to do a 'Friends' set," Zarakas said. "When we heard about that we were, of course, all in."

Brinkley, Spicer make 'Dancing with the Stars'

NEW YORK (AP)—Christie Brinkley, Hannah Brown of "The Bachelorette" and former White House press secretary Sean Spicer are among the contestants on the next season of "Dancing with the Stars"—but not everyone is happy with the list.

ABC announced the celebrity lineup Wednesday for season 28 on "Good Morning America." The season kicks off Sept. 16.

Spicer quit as press secretary just six months into President Donald Trump's presidency. He had a contentious relationship with the press and is remembered for his ridiculed statement that the president's inauguration was the most widely seen in history.

Spicer's addition apparently didn't go down well with co-host Tom Bergeron, who tweeted that he earlier told producers he hoped the new season would be a "joyful respite from our exhausting political climate" and urged them not have any "divisive bookings."

Producers apparently disagreed. "We can agree to disagree, as we do now, but ultimately it's their call," Bergeron wrote.

The show's lineup also includes Lauren Alaina, Ally Brooke, and Mary Wilson and athletes Lamar Odom and Ray Lewis.

Kate Flannery, Karamo Brown, Kel Mitchell and James Van Der Beek round out the list of celebrity dancers.

In a change from previous seasons, viewers won't lean the celebrity-pro pairings until the season premiere. Professional dancer Peta Murgatroyd returns to the ballroom this year.

Taylor Swift says she plans to re-record her songs' masters

In this Aug. 11, 2019 file photo, Taylor Swift accepts the Icon award at the Teen Choice Awards in Hermosa Beach, Calif.

AP

NEW YORK (AP)—Taylor Swift plans to re-record her songs after her catalog was purchased by popular music manager Scooter Braun.

"CBS Sunday Morning" previewed some of its pre-taped interview with Swift on Wednesday. The reporter asks Swift if she would consider re-recording her songs in order to own the new versions, and Swift said, "Oh yeah." When asked if that was the plan, Swift replied with: "Yeah, absolutely."

In late June, Braun's Ithaca Holdings announced that it had acquired Big Machine Label Group, which was led by Scott Borchetta and home to Swift's first six albums, including the Grammy winners for album of the year, 2008's "Fearless" and 2014's "1989."

Swift said last November that she signed with Universal Music Group instead of staying at Big Machine because she knew that re-signing would only result in her not owning her future work.

Braun manages Justin Bieber and Ariana Grande.

The full interview will air Sunday on CBS at 9 a.m. Eastern.

Once upon a time in fatherhood: Tarantino to become a dad

Tarantino

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Quentin Tarantino is going to be telling a whole new brand of "Once upon a time" tale—the bedtime-story kind.

The "Once Upon a Time... In Hollywood" director is about to become a father.

His representative Katherine Rowe says Tarantino and his wife, Israeli model and singer Daniella Pick, are expecting a baby. No further details were released.

The couple met in 2009 and married last November just after Tarantino finished shooting "Once Upon a Time ... In Hollywood," the film starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Brad Pitt that became a summer hit.

It's the first child for the 56-year-old Tarantino, who also directed "Pulp Fiction" and "Reservoir Dogs," and the 35-year-old Pick, who is the daughter of singer-songwriter Svika Pick.

Jury backs Sparks in lawsuit by former school head

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—A federal jury sided Wednesday with novelist Nicholas Sparks and the private Christian school he founded in his North Carolina hometown, dismissing claims by the school's former headmaster that he was unjustly fired and then slandered by the author.

Jurors spent about three hours before deciding that the author of "Message in a Bottle" and "The Notebook," the novelist's foundation and Epiphany School of Global Studies owed nothing to Saul Hillel Benjamin. Benjamin sued in 2014, contending he was fired without cause, then defamed when Sparks told a job recruiter, school trustees and others that Benjamin suffered from mental illness.

"The verdict speaks volumes, and completely rejects the campaign waged by Mr. Benjamin and his lawyers in an attempt to discredit Epiphany and me," Sparks said in a statement from his publicist.

Benjamin's lawyers argued that the former school headmaster was pushed out of the job he held for less than five months in 2013 because some parents at the school in New Bern, about 120 miles (195 kilometers) east of Raleigh, were unhappy about his new focus on diversity and gay students.

In this Monday, April 22, 2019, file photo, Liam Hemsworth, left, and Miley Cyrus arrive at the premiere of "Avengers: Endgame" at the Los Angeles Convention Center. AP

Liam Hemsworth seeks to divorce Cyrus after 7 months of marriage

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Liam Hemsworth is seeking a divorce from Miley Cyrus after seven months of marriage.

The 29-year-old Australian actor filed for the dissolution of his marriage to the 26-year-old American pop star in Los Angeles Superior Court on Wednesday.

Hemsworth, whose attorney Laura Wasser has been involved in many major stars' divorces, cited irreconcilable differences as the reason for the split.

The two were an on-again, off-again couple for more than a decade before marrying in December. They announced their separation on Aug. 10.

They have no children but said in the statement announcing their separation that they will remain "dedicated parents to all of their animals they share."

Mother-in-law's Alzheimer's keeps couple tied to home

DEAR ABBY: I have been married 35 years. During the last six years, my mom died, my dad moved in and then he passed away at 91. Dad traveled, including to see my three siblings, and had a girlfriend. Three years ago, my mother-in-law, who is in the beginning stages of Alzheimer's, moved in. My husband is an only child and has no other family nearby. A couple of years ago, our sons, both of whom are in their 30s and had been in the Air Force, moved in. They have steady jobs and contribute to the household. One just bought a house.

My problem is with my husband. Because his mother can't be left alone, we rarely go anywhere anymore. And even when we are out, he's glued to his phone. They don't have a strong relationship and rarely speak to each other. When I try to talk to him about it, his answer is, "I promised I'd never put her in a nursing home," and, "Honor thy mother and father."

We have been to counseling. It didn't help. We are in our mid-60s and in good shape. I would like to travel before we won't be able to anymore. His mother is almost 90 and has no other health problems, so she could live five or six more years. I feel he should put her in assisted living so we can get on with our lives again. I'm tired of taking care of others, and I want to "retire," too. Am I selfish for feeling this way? How do others deal with this?

HOW MUCH LONGER?

DEAR HOW: I have mixed feelings about your letter. Considering that your father moved in with you and your husband until his death, yes, I think your attitude is selfish. That said, Alzheimer's patients need constant supervision, and it is possible that in the right kind of assisted living situation, your mother-in-law could be doing better than she is. Social stimulation is important, and the activities that are provided could be good for her. The Alzheimer's Association is a trusted source of information, and you and your husband should be getting help from it. Find it online at alz.org. The toll-free phone number is 800-272-3900.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My daughter is marrying someone of a different faith. She doesn't want to invite my husband's first cousin and her spouse to her wedding. The spouse is openly racist, anti-Semitic and homophobic, and the cousin doesn't contradict him.

My daughter is inviting people of different faiths, ethnicities and sexual orientations. She does not want to share her wedding day with someone who is filled with hate for her other guests and for her fiance. Although we don't socialize with this cousin and her spouse, my husband believes "family is family" and they should be invited. What is your opinion?

ON MY DAUGHTER'S SIDE

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR O.M.D.S.: I disagree with your husband. Because someone is a relative does not require the individual to be invited to every family function, particularly when your branch of the family doesn't socialize with them otherwise. However, if your husband still insists they receive an invitation, he should follow up the invitation with a phone call detailing what will be expected of guests regarding civility and decorum.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

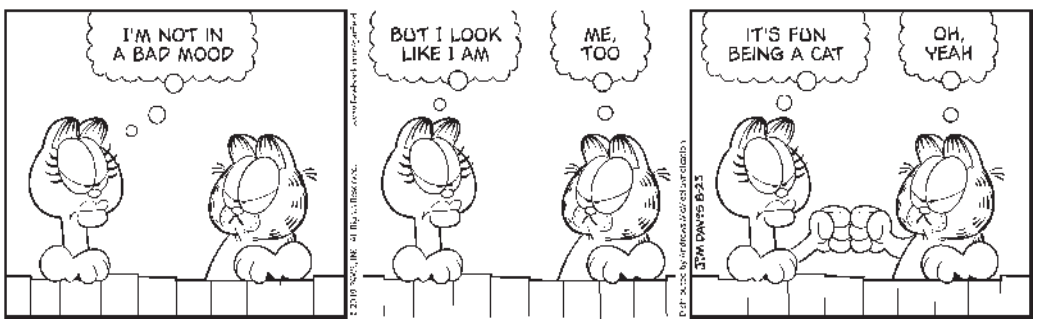
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

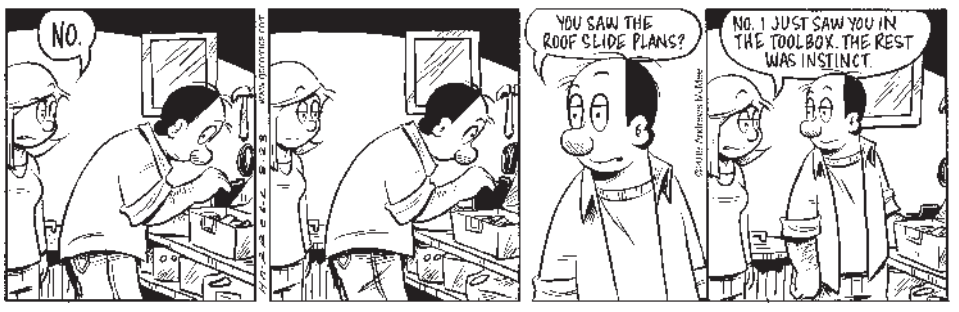
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

WE'RE WINNING? WHEN DID WE SCORE THAT RUN?
WHEN YOU WERE IN THE BATHROOM, DIDN'T YOU HEAR THE CHEERS?
I THOUGHT IT WAS BECAUSE I REMEMBERED TO FLUSH THE TOILET.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

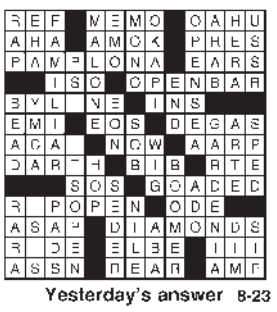
ACROSS

1 Rx writers
4 Mimic
7 Pocket breads
12 Mentalist Geller
13 Noon, on a clock
14 Adversary
15 Heavy weight
16 Reykjavik native
18 Dress
19 Heavens above
20 Detail, briefly
22 Parcel of land
23 Mediocre
27 Fib
29 Smoothing tool
31 Kindle download
34 Nasser's successor
35 Male goose
37 Enjoy Aspen
38 Raw minerals
39 Ms. Thurman
41 Rickey flavor
45 Strainer
47 Eggy quaff
48 Parsley-like herb
52 Sauce source
53 "Over There" composer
54 A Gershwin brother
55 Sixth sense
56 Glistened
57 Ninny
58 Asian holiday

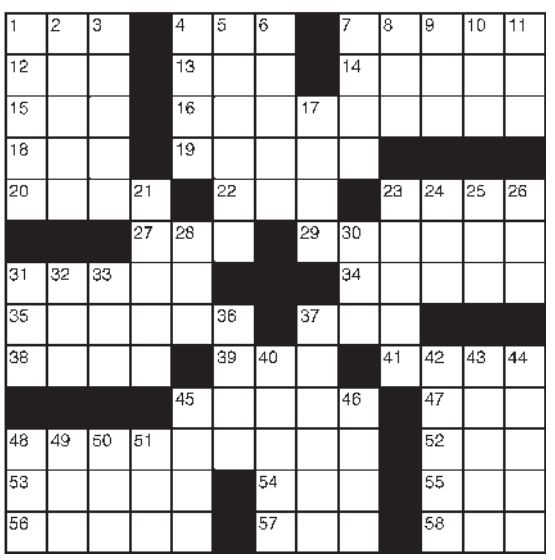
DOWN

1 Some shelter adoptees
2 Wilt
3 Burn slightly
4 Pivot line
5 Predicament
6 "Old MacDonald" refrain
7 Carrots' mates
8 Hostel
9 Media mogul Turner
10 Soul, to Camus
11 Damascus is its cap.
17 Reply to "Shall we?"
21 Oafs
23 Slow mover
24 Quirky
25 Poseidon's home
26 Scrap
28 White House nickname
30 Request
31 Swelled head
32 Soap unit
33 Inseparable
36 Wreck
37 Frugal sorts
40 TV, radio, etc.
42 Map within a map
43 Antlered animal
44 Cairo's nation
45 Logical
46 Historic periods
48 IV measures
49 La-la lead-in
50 Plato's P
51 007 creator Fleming

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 8-23



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jeremy Lin, 31; Kobe Bryant, 41; Scott Caan, 43; Shelley Long, 70.

Happy Birthday: Take care of business. Put everything in its place, and prepare to make substantial improvements to your life emotionally, mentally and physically. It's time to follow through with your plans and to make your dreams come true. Stop procrastinating, and start the process of eliminating what's not working for you anymore and implementing what will. Romance is highlighted. Your numbers are 3, 13, 18, 25, 33, 37, 40.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Consider what you are doing and what you want to be doing with your time. Address your skills, qualifications and what you need to achieve educationally or personally to maneuver yourself into a meaningful position. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* You can finally put your plans in motion and get positive results. Hard work, dedication and discipline will encourage others to offer significant support and hands-on help. A change in a meaningful relationship looks promising. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Look for opportunities that will enhance your living conditions and help you overcome any adversity you face at home or due to external influences. Clean up personal paperwork that is causing stress or stopping you from doing something you want to do. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Offer your assistance to a cause you believe in or someone you love. Working alongside people you have a connection to will make your job easier and bring you closer. Romance is on the rise, and personal improvements are within reach. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Be careful what you wish for. If you make too many changes, you will have difficulty adjusting. Slow down and figure out what's important before you make a move. Change only what isn't working for you. Discuss your plans with someone you trust. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Be secretive about what you are planning to do. Choose to take a direction that pleases you instead of doing what others want. It's time to put yourself first and regain ownership of who you are and what you want. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Take care of unfinished business. Make changes at home that will keep your costs down. Deal with someone trying to push his or her beliefs or lifestyle on you. Be open about the way you feel and what you want. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Apply your skills and physically follow through to get things done on time and to your specifications. Planning a gathering with friends or relatives you haven't seen for some time will spark your imagination. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Question what appears to be suspicious. Rely on facts and figures when faced with a discrepancy. Keep your emotions under control and your thoughts to yourself. Protect against insult, injury and loss when met with discord or opposition. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Trust in results, not speculation. Not everyone will offer valid information. A change in your financial standing or with a pending settlement looks promising. Do the legwork required to seal a deal. Pay close attention to detail. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Spend time rearranging and improving your surroundings. Make adjustments that will free you of any dealings with people who are aggressive or demanding. Strive for peace of mind, fair play and overall happiness. Be true to yourself. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Don't get caught up in trying to match what others have; you'll never be happy. Consider what you want and how best to go about getting your way. Personal change and spiritual growth will bring the highest returns. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are steady, dependable and self-sufficient. You are dedicated and loyal.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	5	7		3			1
7				9			
4		8					
1						4	2
			2				
7	9						6
					4		9
			5			8	
5			9		1	2	

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 8/23

Yesterday's Answer

7	5	3	1	4	8	2	9	6
2	6	9	7	5	3	1	8	4
4	1	8	9	2	6	5	7	3
1	8	4	3	6	5	9	2	7
5	2	6	4	7	9	3	1	8
3	9	7	2	8	1	6	4	5
8	3	2	6	1	7	4	5	9
9	7	1	5	3	4	8	6	2
6	4	5	8	9	2	7	3	1

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

'AVENGERS: ENDGAME' (FILM) Solution: 6 letters

O	R	E	H	R	E	P	U	S	S	L	O	R	A	C
E	D	A	N	T	M	A	N	U	E	V	A	Ⓢ	M	A
R	H	D	H	U	L	K	K	A	W	M	Ⓣ	E	E	S
O	E	L	U	S	B	R	U	C	E	Ⓐ	A	O	R	T
C	M	S	T	R	A	N	G	E	Ⓝ	V	S	J	I	N
K	S	R	L	M	A	T	E	D	R	I	A	P	C	I
E	W	U	I	A	L	W	A	L	O	E	C	N	A	A
T	O	F	S	R	Q	E	Y	N	D	W	P	K	S	T
R	R	F	T	V	I	U	E	T	H	A	N	O	S	P
E	T	A	E	E	R	M	A	Y	I	T	E	E	O	A
K	H	L	V	L	O	T	R	N	E	N	R	H	Y	C
R	R	O	E	E	N	H	I	O	T	K	I	A	C	X
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America, Ant-Man, Brolin, Bruce, Captain, Carol, Cast, Cheadle, Cooper, Core, Downey, Earth, Evans, Gillan, Gurira, Hawkeye, Hemsworth, Hulk, IMAX, Infinity War, Iron, James, Joe, Larson, Lee, Markus, Marvel, Natasha, Nick, Panther, Parker, Quantum, Rocket, Rudd, Ruffalo, Russo, Save, Stan, Stark, Steve, Strange, Superhero, Thanos, Thor, Travel, Vormir, Wasp

Yesterday's Answer: Sandals

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CLASSIFIED ADS

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(15) **Auto Technician** $7.98 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Repair automobiles, trucks, buses, and other vehicles. Master mechanics repair virtually any part on the vehicle or specialize in the transmission system. Test drive vehicles and test components and systems, using equipment such as infrared engine analyzers, compression gauges, and computerized diagnostic devices. Test and adjust repaired systems to meet manufacturers' performance specifications. Repair, reline, replace, and adjust brakes. Review work orders and discuss work with supervisors. Confer with customers to obtain descriptions of vehicle problems and to discuss work to be performed and future repair requirements.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate;
- At least 24 months experience
- Knowledge in using hand and power tools

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(30) **CARPENTER/LABOR** $9.76 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Help carpenters by performing duties requiring less skill. Duties include using, supplying or holding materials or tools, and cleaning work area and equipment. Clean work areas, machines, or equipment, to maintain a clean and safe job site. Fasten timbers or lumber with glue, screws, pegs, or nails and install hardware. Perform tie spacing layout and measure, mark, drill or cut. Select tools, equipment, or materials from storage and transport items to work site. Drill holes in timbers or lumber.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate;
- At least 12 months experience
- Knowledge in using hand and power tools.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(4) **CIVIL ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN** 14.18 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Apply theory and principles of civil engineering in planning, designing, and overseeing construction and maintenance of structures and facilities under the direction of engineering staff or physical scientists. Calculate dimensions, square footage, profile and component specifications, and material quantities using calculator or computer. Read and review project blueprints and structural specifications to determine dimensions of structure or system and material requirements. Draft detailed dimensional drawings and design layouts for projects and to ensure conformance to specifications. Confer with supervisor to determine project details such as plan preparation, acceptance testing, and evaluation of field conditions. Analyze proposed site factors and design maps, graphs, tracings, and diagrams to illustrate findings.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- Associate Graduate;
- At least 24 months experience
- Knowledge in practical application of Engineering Science and Technology

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(02) SALES PERSON - $8.57 to 8.88 per hour plus 1.5 OT
Full time, 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Sell merchandise, such as furniture, motor vehicles and parts, appliances, or apparel to consumers. Greet customers and ascertain what each customer wants or needs. Recommend, select, and help locate or obtain merchandise based on customer needs and desires. Compute sales prices, total purchases, and receive and process cash or credit payment. Prepare merchandise for purchase or rental. Answer questions regarding the store and its merchandise.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate or its equivalence;
- At least 12 months experience
- Must be knowledgeable in operating PC, adding machine, electric typewriter

All interested applicants can submit resume at richel@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –Marianaslabor.net.

APEX BUILDERS, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(02) **Environmental Health and Safety Manager** $10. 65 to 10.65 per hour, plus 1.5 OT, Full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Review, evaluate, and analyze work environments and design programs and procedures to control, eliminate, and prevent disease or injury caused by chemical, physical, and biological agents or ergonomic factors. May conduct inspections and enforce adherence to laws and regulations governing the health and safety of individuals. May be employed in the public or private sector. Includes environmental protection officers. Order suspension of activities that pose threats to workers' health or safety. Investigate accidents to identify causes or to determine how such accidents might be prevented in the future. Recommend measures to help protect workers from potentially hazardous work methods, processes, or materials. Inspect or evaluate workplace environments, equipment, or practices to ensure compliance with safety standards and government regulations. Develop or maintain hygiene programs, such as noise surveys, continuous atmosphere monitoring, ventilation surveys, or asbestos management plans.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- Bachelor's Degree;
- At least 24 months experience in safety standards;
- Must possess various safety training certificates.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(04) **Interior Designer** - $8.48 to 9.32 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Plan, design, and furnish interiors of residential, commercial, or industrial buildings. Formulate design which is practical, aesthetic, and conducive to intended purposes, such as raising productivity, selling merchandise, or improving life style. May specialize in a particular field, style, or phase of interior design. Design plans to be safe and to be compliant with the American Disabilities Act (ADA). Coordinate with other professionals, such as contractors, architects, engineers, and lumbers, to ensure job success. Inspect construction work on site to ensure its adherence to the design plans. Use computer-aided drafting (CAD) and related software to produce construction documents. Advise client on interior design factors such as space planning, layout and use of furnishings or equipment, and color coordination.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
Bachelor's Degree;
At least 24 months experience;
Must have knowledge of design techniques, tools, and principles involved in the production of precision technical plans, blueprints, drawings, and models

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(12) **Mechanics** $7.98 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul automotive vehicles. Repair automobiles, trucks, buses, and other vehicles. Test drive vehicles and test components and systems, using equipment such as infrared engine analyzers, compression gauges, and computerized diagnostic devices. Test and adjust repaired systems to meet manufacturers' performance specifications. Repair, reline, replace, and adjust brakes. Review work orders and discuss work with supervisors. Confer with customers to obtain descriptions of vehicle problems and to discuss work to be performed and future repair requirements.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate;
- At least 24 months experience
- Knowledge in using hand and power tools and testers.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(2) **MATERIAL CONTROL MANAGER** $9.02 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Weigh, measure, and check materials, supplies, and equipment for the purpose of keeping relevant records. Duties are primarily clerical by nature. Manage, collect and keep record of samples of products or materials. Document quantity, quality, type, weight, test result data, and value of materials or products to maintain shipping, receiving, and production records and files. Weigh or measure materials, equipment, or products to maintain relevant records, using volume meters, scales, rules, or calipers. Collect or prepare measurement, weight, or identification labels and attach them to products. Examine products or materials, parts, subassemblies, and packaging for damage, defects, or shortages, using specification sheets, gauges, and standards charts. Signal or instruct other workers to weigh, move, or check products

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate;
- At least 12 months experience
- Knowledge of raw materials, production processes, quality control, costs, and other techniques for maximizing the effective manufacture and distribution of goods.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(06) **Mechanics** $7.98 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul automotive vehicles. Repair automobiles, trucks, buses, and other vehicles. Test drive vehicles and test components and systems, using equipment such as infrared engine analyzers, compression gauges, and computerized diagnostic devices. Test and adjust repaired systems to meet manufacturers' performance specifications. Repair, reline, replace, and adjust brakes. Review work orders and discuss work with supervisors. Confer with customers to obtain descriptions of vehicle problems and to discuss work to be performed and future repair requirements.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate;
- At least 24 months experience
- Knowledge in using hand and power tools and testers.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(05) SERVICE TECHNICIAN- $10.58 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time 40hrs.a week, Monday to Friday 7:30am to 4:30pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Help plumbers, pipefitters, steamfitters, or pipelayers by performing duties requiring less skill. Duties include using, supplying or holding materials or tools, and cleaning work area and equipment. Measure, cut, thread and assemble new pipe, placing the assembled pipe in hangers or other supports. Cut or drill holes in walls or floors to accommodate the passage of pipes. Perform rough-ins, repair and replace fixtures and water heaters, and locate, repair, or remove leaking or broken pipes. Assist pipe fitters in the layout, assembly, and installation of piping for air, ammonia, gas, and water systems. Cut pipe and lift up to fitters. Fit or assist in fitting valves, couplings, or assemblies to tanks, pumps, or systems, using hand tools. Requisition tools and equipment, select type and size of the pipe, and collect and transport materials and equipment to work site. Mount brackets and hangers on walls and ceilings to hold pipes, and set sleeves or inserts to provide support for pipes. Excavate and grade ditches, and lay and join pipe for water and sewer service. Disassemble and remove the damaged or worn pipe.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate;
- At least 12 months experience
- Knowledge in using hand and power tools.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(02) **STEEL WORKERS** $14.53 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Raise, place, and unite iron or steel girders, columns, and other structural members to form completed structures or structural frameworks. May erect metal storage tanks and assemble prefabricated metal buildings. Read specifications or blueprints to determine the locations, quantities, or sizes of materials required. Connect columns, beams, and girders with bolts, following blueprints and instructions from supervisors. Bolt aligned structural steel members in position for permanent riveting, bolting, or welding into place. Fasten structural steel members to hoist cables, using chains, cables, or rope. Hoist steel beams, girders, or columns into place, using cranes or signaling hoisting equipment operators to lift and position structural steel members.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate;
- At least 12 months experience
- Knowledge in using hand and power tools.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(04) **Warehouse worker** - $7.93 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Receive, store, and issue materials, equipment, and other items from stockroom, warehouse, or storage yard. Keep records and compile stock reports. Pack and unpack items to be stocked on shelves in stockrooms, warehouses, or storage yards. Store items in an orderly and accessible manner in warehouses, tool rooms, supply rooms, or other areas. Examine and inspect stock items for wear or defects, reporting any damage to supervisors. Receive and count stock items, and record data manually or using a computer. Mark stock items using identification tags, stamps, electric marking tools, or other labeling equipment.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
High School Graduate;
At least 12 months experience;
Must have knowledge in the inventory of construction materials and tools.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

YCO Corporation is looking for the following position:

Hardware Sales Associate
Qualification Requirements: Knowledge of business and management involve customer service, production methods, Knowledge in computer system. e.g data base, word, excel, rock solid, POS and other computer software. Familiar Hardware products. Good in oral comprehension, sales and marketing. 12 months work related experience with High School diploma. Salary: $8.57/hr. This job opportunity is a temporary full time position. Deductions all required by CNMI and Federal Law. From Mon-Sat. 36 hr/week 6 hr/day.

Office Supervisor
Qualification Requirements: Knowledge in Computer systems and Electronics such as peach tree, rock solid, microsoft excel, word, access, power point, data base and computer system. Knowledge of business management involve in strategic planning, human resources, leadership technique, production method. Good in customer and personal service. Ability in oral comprehension & expression and written comprehension. With Employment Certificate as office supervisor. Employment certificate will be applied equally to both U.S. Workers and CW-1 workers. At least 24 months work related experience with Associate Degree. Salary $12.41/hr. This job opportunity is a temporary full time position. Deduction all required by CNMI and Federal Law. From Mon-Fri. 36hr/week/7 hr /day.

Dept Hardware Sale Supervisor
Qualification Requirements: Good in customer service, marketing expertise, good in computer e.g data base, rock solid system, excel, word, and other computer program, Familiar in hardware product, knowledge of business and management principle, leadership, production methods, Service oriented. Physically fit, Can able to drive. Knowledge in inventory system. Salary: $8.55-9.20/hr. This job opportunity is a temporary full time position. Deduction: All required by CNMI and Federal Law. Frm: Mon-Sun 7 hrs a day(flexible time and day). 36 hrs /week.

Electrician
Qualification Requirements: At least 24 months work related experience with Associate Degree. Knowledge in all aspect of electrical .eg. installation, plan, lay out, repair, trouble shooting, inspect electrical or electronics system for defects. Good in computer system, data base, Microsoft excel, word, peach tree system, drafting. Knowledge in sales and marketing of electrical product. Good in customer service, with electrical license and diploma and with driver license. Salary: 9:60 hr. This job opportunity is a temporary full time position. Deduction: All required by CNMI and Federal Law. From: Mon-Sat 6 hrs. / day, 36 hrs. /week.

Applicant may submit application to 2nd flr Yumul bldg. Mnsgr Guerrero Rd Chalan Kiya Saipan MP 96950 or email to ycocorporationlabor@yahoo.com. From Monday to Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm. Tel (670)233-3112/3.

YCO Corporation is looking for the following position:

Maintenance and Repair Workers, General
Knowledge in equipment maintenance, repairing, troubleshooting, equipment selection or determining the kind of tools and equipment needed to do a job. Physically fit, with valid drivers license. Must be at least 24 months work related experience with high school diploma. Salary: $8.11 to 9.00/hr. Monday to Friday, 36hr/week, 7 hrs/day. This position is temporary, full time position. There is 1 job opening intent to fill.

Accounting Associate
Atleast 24 months work related experience with High School Diploma, Proficient in microsoft software programs and accounting software such as quick book and peachtree. Knowledge on US generally accepted accounting principles. Comply with Federal State and company policies procedures and Regulations. Compile statistical, financial, accounting or auditing reports and tables pertaining to such cash receipts, expenditures, accounts payables procedures. Proficient in the English language (verbal, written and reading). Active listening, critical thinking. With Certificate of employment. The required employment certificate will be applied equally to both U.S. workers and CW workers. Salary: $9.87/hr. 36 hrs./week, 7 hrs./day. From Monday to Friday. This position is temporary, full time position. There is 1 job opportunity intent to fill with this position.

Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Driver
Required commercial driver license, physically fit with truck driver certificate. Knowledge in record operational or production data, record service or repair activities. Atleast 12 months work related experience with High School Diploma. Salary: $8.00/hr. /hr.36 hrs./week,6 hrs./day Monday to Saturday This position is temporary, full time position. There is 1 job opportunity intent to fill with this position.

Auto Mechanics/Technician
At least 24 months working related experience with High School diploma. Knowledge in repairing, troubleshooting opertation and control, ability of critical thinking and judgement and decision making. Knowledge in sales and marketing of automotive items. Knowledge of machines and tools, including their design, uses, repair and maintenance. Knowledge in customer and personal service. Must have a updated drivers license, physically fit with auto mechanic certificate equal to both US worker and CW-1 worker. Salary: $8.02 to 8.30/hr, 36hr per week, 7 hrs./day. Monday to Friday. This job opportunity is temporary, full time position. There is one (1) job opening the employer to fill.

Applicant may submit application to 2nd flr Yumul bldg. Mnsgr Guerrero Rd Chalan Kiya Saipan MP 96950 or email to ycocorporationlabor@yahoo.com. From Monday to Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm. Tel (670)233-3112/3.

WHATZIT Solution: Wagon train

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

CURRY ENTERPRISES, LLC
1 CHEF AND HEAD COOK
starting salary $13.87 to $19.00
Interested applicants,
pls call 233-3372
email: mabang1521@gmail.com

WAREHOUSE for RENT

REM LOWERBASE
Warehouse #1 Size: 5,000sq/ft with built-in office & bathroom
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 234-0609 EXT. 158, 285-1317

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) Househelper - Knowledge in cooking Chinese, Japanese, Thai, Cuisine is a must. Experienced in household chores. With valid driver's license.

Submit Applications To:
AYD Services Inc.
AYD Compound, Beach Road,
San Antonio Village, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.# 235-7011

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

CFPJ Corporation
(18) Maintenance
& Repair Workers, General
$8.33/per hr.

Interested applicants,
pls call 235-2375
email: cfpjcorp.2014@yahoo.com

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) Sewing Machine Operator – High School Diploma and atleast 3 months work experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience.

Submit Applications To:
Pam Pacific Enterprises corp. dba
Pena House Boutique and Salon
Ground Floor, Sablan Building, Beach
Road, Chalan Kanoa, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670)235-7270

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(3) Beautician – One year experience as Beautician. Knowledgeable in giving Hair Cut, Hair Colors, Hair High-lights.

Submit Applications To:
Saipan Apparel Printing LLC.
Ground Floor, Afetna Building, Beach
Road, San Antonio Village,
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.# 670-235-1680

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Three (03) Auto Technicians 7.98 per hour plus 1.5 OT
Full time, 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 PM

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Repair automobiles, trucks, buses, and other vehicles. Master mechanics repair virtually any part on the vehicle or specialize in the transmission system. Test drive vehicles and test components and systems, using equipment such as infrared engine analyzers, compression gauges, and computerized diagnostic devices. Test and adjust repaired systems to meet manufacturers' performance specifications. Repair, reline, replace, and adjust brakes. Review work orders and discuss work with supervisors. Confer with customers to obtain descriptions of vehicle problems and to discuss work to be performed and future repair requirements.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate or its equivalence;
- At least 24 months experience.
- Knowledge in using hand, power tools and tester.

All interested applicants can submit resume at richel@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 811 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays.

APEX BUILDERS, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Two (02) Mechanics 7.98 per hour plus 1.5 OT
Full time, 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 PM

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul automotive vehicles. Repair automobiles, trucks, buses, and other vehicles. Master mechanics repair virtually any part on the vehicle or specialize in the transmission system. Test drive vehicles and test components and systems, using equipment such as infrared engine analyzers, compression gauges, and computerized diagnostic devices. Test and adjust repaired systems to meet manufacturers' performance specifications. Repair, reline, replace, and adjust brakes. Review work orders and discuss work with supervisors. Confer with customers to obtain descriptions of vehicle problems and to discuss work to be performed and future repair requirements.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate or its equivalence;
- At least 24 months experience.
- Knowledge in using hand, power tools and tester.

All interested applicants can submit resume at richel@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670) 234-7900 ext. 811 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays.

APEX BUILDERS, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(3) Heavy Equipment Operators - $9.05 per hour, plus x 1.5 OT, full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Duties may include but not limited to: Operating and/or tending machinery equipped with scoops, shovels or buckets to excavate and load loose materials. These machinery may include excavators, backhoes, compactors and bulldozers. Moving levers, depressing foot pedals, and turning dials to operate power machinery. Setting up or inspecting equipment prior to operation. Observing hand signals, grade stakes or other markings. When operating machines so that work can be performed to specifications. Operates machinery to perform activities such as back filling, excavations, vibrating or breaking rocks or concrete.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate
- Minimum 12 months experience
- Knowledge in operating heavy equipment

All interested applicants can send resume to: info@itscorporation.net or visit our office at P.O. Box 502273 Chalan Lau, Chalan Pale Arnold, Middle Road, Saipan, or contact us at telephone numbers (670) 235-6511 or (670) 285-4805 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Saturday. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's posted Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor website-marianaslabor.net

ITS CORPORATION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) Civil Engineering Technician $14.18 per hour, plus x 1.5 OT, full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Duties may include but not limited to: Apply theory and principles of civil engineering in planning, designing and overseeing construction and maintenance of structures and facilities under the direction of the Operating Manager. Calculate dimentions, square footage, profile and component specifications and material quantities using calculator or computer. Read and review blueprints and structural specifications to determine dimensions of structure or system and material requirements. Draft detailed dimentional drawings and design layouts for projects to ensure conformance with specifications. Confer with supervisors.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- Associate Degree in Civil Engineering
- Minimum 24 months experience
- Civil Engineering license or equivalent

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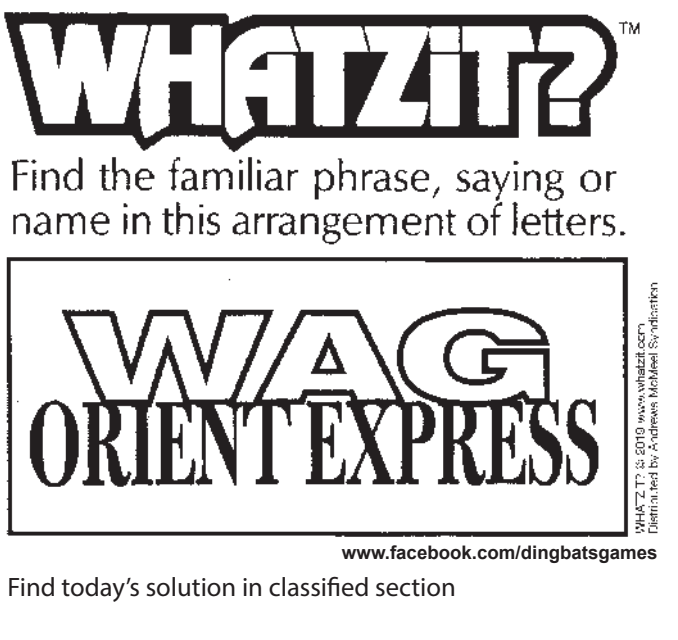
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Harper, Dickerson help Phillies beat Red Sox

BOSTON (AP)—The Fenway fans were letting Bryce Harper have it, calling the Phillies' $330 million man "overrated" and other insults that Philadelphia manager Gabe Kapler couldn't bring himself to repeat.

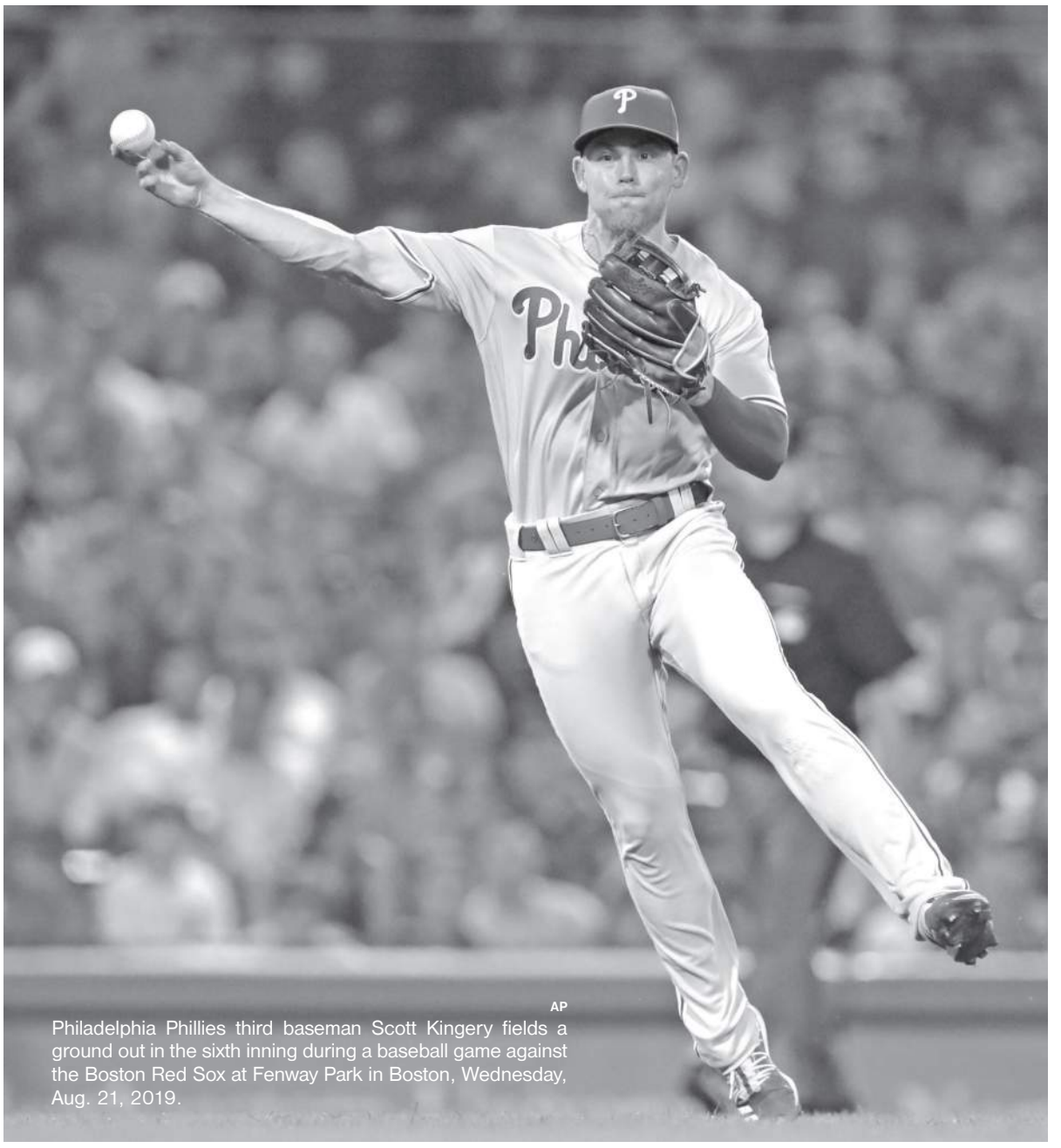
Harper then quieted them with one swing.

"He's good at doing that, shutting them up," Phillies starter Drew Smyly said on Wednesday night after Harper's two-run homer propelled Philadelphia to a 5-2 victory over the Boston Red Sox. "Especially on the road."

Harper's homer in the fifth inning turned a 2-1 deficit into a 3-2 lead, and Corey Dickerson drove in two runs with a triple and a single to help the Phillies a sweep the two-game interleague series. Harper was not available to talk to reporters after the game, but Kapler said there was an especially sweet celebration in the dugout after the home run.

"They were on him pretty good until that moment," said Kapler, who was a member of Boston's 2004 World Series championship team. "I'm really happy for Bryce."

Boston started the first inning with back-to-back doubles, and Jackie Bradley Jr. homered for the second straight night to give the Red Sox a 2-0 lead against Smyly.



AP

Philadelphia Phillies third baseman Scott Kingery fields a ground out in the sixth inning during a baseball game against the Boston Red Sox at Fenway Park in Boston, Wednesday, Aug. 21, 2019.

Tigers 2, Astros 1

In Houston, Justin Verlander pitched a two-hitter and lost, allowing homers to John Hicks and Ronny Rodriguez as the Detroit Tigers beat the Astros.

Hicks led off the ninth with a tie-breaking blast to left-center field off Verlander (15-5), who leads the majors in strikeouts with 239 but ranks second in homers allowed with 33.

The veteran right-hander retired the first 14 batters, with six strikeouts, before Rodriguez homered to the seats in right with two outs in the fifth. Verlander sat down another 10 straight before Hicks connected.

With Verlander on the mound at home against the worst team in the majors, the Astros were more than a 5-1 favorite, one of the biggest favorites in an MLB game that Las Vegas oddsmakers could remember.

Mets 4, Indians 3, 10 innings

In New York, J.D. Davis lined an RBI single with two outs that capped a two-run rally in the 10th inning, and the Mets beat Cleveland.

All-Star reliever Brad Hand's failure to cover first base on a potential game-ending double-play grounder cost Cleveland. Davis made the Indians pay with his first career game-ending hit.

The Mets won their fourth in a row and for the 20th time in 25 games, moving a season-high six over .500.

Carlos Santana hit a solo home run with two outs in the Cleveland 10th off Luis Avilan (4-1) for a 3-2 lead.

Cubs 12, Giants 11

In Chicago, Kris Bryant hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in the eighth inning to give the Cubs a wild victory over San Francisco.

Nicholas Castellanos and Kyle Schwarber also connected for Chicago, which has won four straight despite losing leads twice in the last four innings. The Cubs moved back into first place in the NL Central by a half-game over St. Louis, which lost to Milwaukee in a rain-shortened game.

Castellanos, who went 4 for 5, has homered in three straight games for the second time in his career.

Evan Longoria, Mike Yastrzemski, Stephen Vogt and Kevin Pillar homered for San Francisco, which has dropped three straight.

Dodgers 2, Blue Jays 1, 10 innings

In Los Angeles, Max Muncy homered in the bottom of the 10th inning to lift the Dodgers over Toronto for their 50th home victory of the season.

Will Smith also went deep and Walker Buehler threw seven shutout innings for the major league-leading Dodgers, who have baseball's best home record as well at 50-16.

Muncy sent his 33rd homer to center field off Tim Mayza (1-3) with one out. The slugger picked up the Dodgers after closer Kenley Jansen gave up a tying homer to Rowdy Tellez in the ninth. Fans booed Jansen after he got two more outs to end the inning.

Athletics 6, Yankees 4

In Oakland, Khris Davis and Marcus Semien each hit a two-run homer to lead Mike Fiers and the Athletics past New York.

Davis snapped an 0-for-17 slump—three at-bats shy of the longest hitless drought of his career with his first home run since July 30 and second since June 18. It was just his 18th homer after he led the majors last season with 48 for his third straight year with 40 or more.

Stephen Piscotty added a solo home run for the A's.

Mike Ford homered for the Yankees, and Didi Gregorius added an RBI double.

Brewers 5, Cardinals 3, 7½ innings

In. St. Louis, Mike Moustakas homered and Keston Hiura drove in a pair of runs to lead Milwaukee over St. Louis in a rain-shortened game.

The game was stopped after 7½ innings and made official following a rain delay of 66 minutes.

Milwaukee broke a six-game losing streak against the Cardinals, who were knocked out of first place in the NL Central—falling one-half game behind the Cubs.

Adrian Houser (6-5) gave up three runs—one earned—and six hits in 5 1/3 innings.

Junior Guerra got the last out in the bottom of the seventh and earned his third save.

Rays 7, Mariners 6

In St. Petersburg, Kevin Kiermaier drove in four runs, including a solo homer during a two-run ninth inning, and Tampa Bay beat Seattle to avoid a three-game sweep.

Kiermaier tied it at 6-6 on a leadoff homer against Matt Magill (3-1). The Rays then loaded the bases on Willy Adames' single, a double by Mike Brosseau and an intentional walk to pinch-hitter Ji-Man Choi with no outs before Magill's wild pitch with Tommy Pham batting allowed Adames to score the winning run.

Daniel Vogelbach had a solo homer and Mallex Smith added a two-run triple off Emilio Pagan (3-2) as the Mariners went up 6-5 in the top of the ninth.

White Sox 4, Twins 0

In Minneapolis, Lucas Giolito pitched a three-hit shutout of the second-highest scoring team in the major leagues, racking up 12 strikeouts as Chicago took the series from AL Central-leading Minnesota.

Giolito (14-6) allowed only runner past first base, a double by Jonathan Schoop in the eighth. The 25-year-old fanned Jake Cave to finish that inning and reach double-digit strikeouts for the third straight time, the first White Sox starter to do so since Chris Sale did so in eight consecutive turns in 2015.

Giolito matched Cleveland's Shane Bieber for the major league lead with his third complete game of the season. The White Sox and Indians have a baseball-best five apiece. Giolito got his with 115 pitches, without a walk.

Braves 5, Marlins 0

In Atlanta, Adeiny Hechavarría and Ronald Acuña Jr. each hit a two-run homer, Julio Teheran struck out a season-high nine and the Braves beat Miami.

The Braves are 14-4 against Miami this year after winning the 2018 season series between the NL East rivals 14-5.

Teheran (8-8) combined with Sean Newcomb and Josh Tomlin for a seven-hitter. The right-hander allowed five hits in seven innings.

Acuña's shot off Caleb Smith (8-7) in the fifth cleared the center field wall.

Nationals 11, Pirates 1

In Pittsburgh, Patrick Corbin pitched eight scoreless innings to remain unbeaten in more than two months, and Asdrúbal Cabrera's three-run home run capped a six-run third as Washington rolled past the Pirates.

Corbin (10-5) struck out four and walked two while throwing 93 pitches to help the Nationals maintain their lead atop the NL wild-card standings.

Joe Musgrove (8-12) gave up six runs and seven hits in five innings as Pittsburgh lost for the 29th time in 37 games since the All-Star break.

Orioles 8, Royals 1

In Baltimore, the Orioles tied a major league record by allowing its 258th home run this season but hit four of their own to beat Kansas City.

Anthony Santander and Renato Núñez hit back-to-back home runs in the fifth inning for the Orioles, who won their first series since July 25-27 at the Los Angeles Angels. Jonathan Villar and Hanser Alberto also went deep.

Rangers 8, Angels 7

In Arlington, Hunter Pence drove in three runs, including an RBI single in the ninth inning that pushed Texas past Los Angeles.

Elvis Andrus led off the ninth with a single up the middle off Trevor Cahill (3-8), the seventh Angels pitcher. After two wild pitches got Andrus to third, Pence grounded a single through the left side of the infield.

The Rangers won three times in the four-game series.

Reds 4, Padres 2

In Cincinnati, Luis Castillo shook off his worst career start to pitch six solid innings and José Iglesias hit a solo home run to pace the Reds.

Castillo (12-5), who allowed nine hits and eight runs on Friday against St. Louis, bounced back to limit San Diego to five hits and one run with four strikeouts.

The Reds sent nine batters to the plate while scoring three runs in a third inning, started by Eric Yardley (0-1), who got the loss in his major league debut.

Rockies 7, Diamondbacks 2

In Phoenix, Tim Melville pitched seven innings of two-hit ball in his first major league appearance in almost two years, and Colorado cruised past Arizona.

Melville (1-0), a 29-year-old right-hander with just six previous big-league appearances who started this season in independent ball, limited Arizona to a first-inning double and a sixth-inning home run to go with four strikeouts and two walks.

For Celtics, USA World Cup camp is a preseason bonus

AUSTRALIA— Red, white and blue. The colors of USA Basketball.

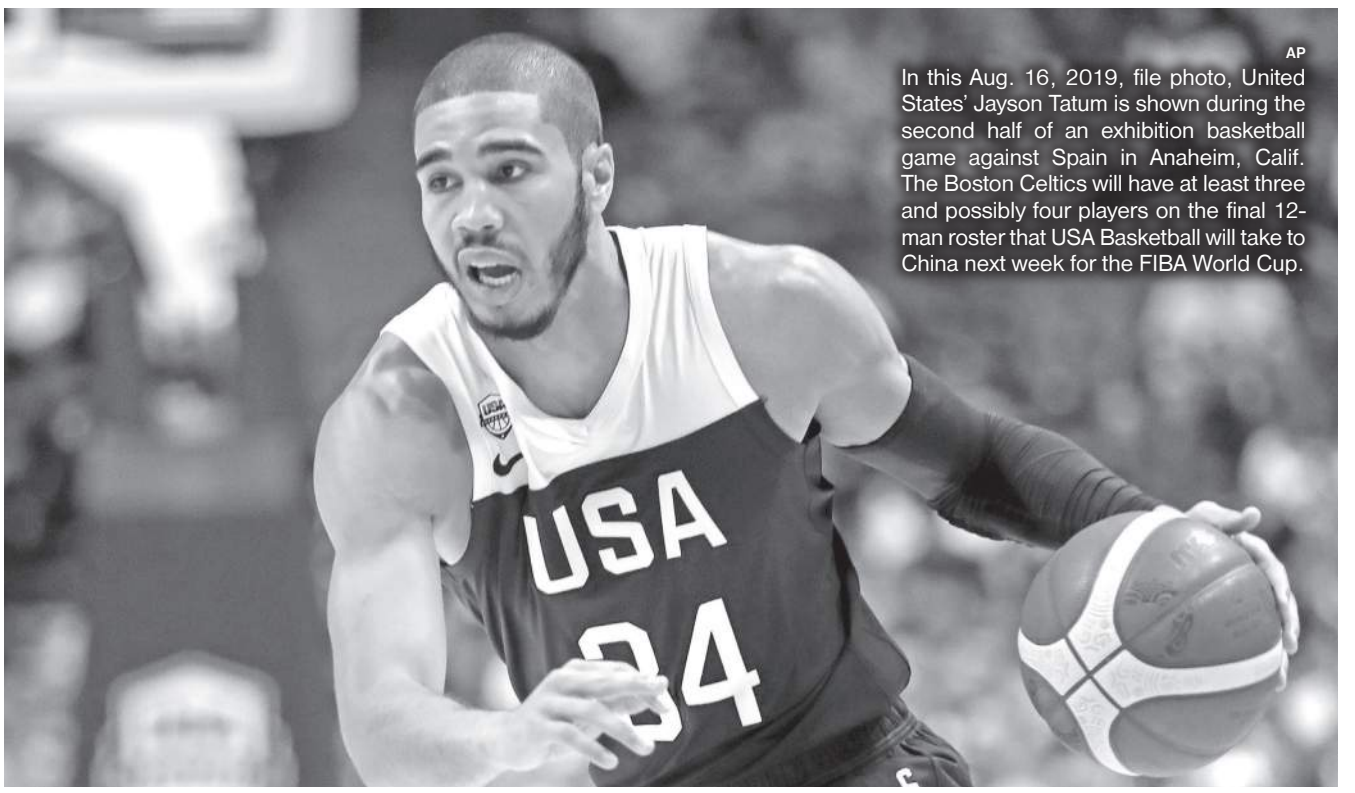
Except this summer, green — Celtics green, to be precise — would work on that palette as well.

The Boston Celtics will have at least three and possibly four players on the final 12-man roster that USA Basketball will take to China next week for the FIBA World Cup. So these Team USA practices have been a get-to-know-you bonus of sorts for new Celtics guard Kemba Walker and Boston teammates Jayson Tatum, Jaylen Brown and Marcus Smart.

"It's pretty cool," Brown said. "It's a blessing, of course. I take it very seriously to be able to represent not only your family and Boston but the country. We take it serious, and we come to play basketball."

Walker, Tatum and Brown seem like locks to make the final U.S. roster. Smart is perhaps a question mark only because of a strained calf that he's been dealing with since the first week of training camp in Las Vegas earlier this month. He's expected to play Thursday when the Americans play a pre-World Cup exhibition against Australia in Melbourne—with a crowd of about 50,000 expected.

The U.S.-Australia game is at Marvel Stadium, the third-biggest stadium in the Australian Football League. Ed Sheeran packed a total of more than a quarter-million people in there for a series of four concerts last year, about 45,000 fans were there for a FIFA World Cup qualifier in 2013 and now another massive crowd is coming for a FIBA World Cup warmup.



AP

In this Aug. 16, 2019, file photo, United States' Jayson Tatum is shown during the second half of an exhibition basketball game against Spain in Anaheim, Calif. The Boston Celtics will have at least three and possibly four players on the final 12-man roster that USA Basketball will take to China next week for the FIBA World Cup.

"This definitely will be the most amount of people I've ever played in front of," Milwaukee's Khris Middleton said. "So I'm excited about it."

For the Celtics, getting this time together before training camp in October is a clear perk—especially since Walker, who will take over for Kyrie Irving at point guard in Boston, could obviously benefit from extra time around his new teammates who all just happen to be very big parts of Celtics coach Brad Stevens' game plans on a nightly basis.

But when USA is across their chest, they're not thinking about what'll be happening in Boston.

"I was already coming, regardless," Walker said. "Before I even signed with the Celtics, I was already committed to this."

The non-Celtics teammates have made a bit of a running joke about Boston bonds being formed in USA camp, talking about how when they see multiple Celtics together they immediately send someone over to break them up. The reality, of course, is that Brown, Tatum and Smart were close already.

And Walker feels like he has the personality to fit in with anyone.

"It goes hand in hand and for me I'm all about the camaraderie, all about the togetherness," Walker said. "I've always felt that your off the court relationships translate on the court. I've always felt that way, I've always been big on that way so that's why I'm trying my best to get acclimated to those guys as best I can."

The games against Australia the teams will meet again in Melbourne on Saturday—even get the Celtics a chance to face some former Celtics. Aron Baynes, a key player for Boston over the last two seasons before getting traded to Phoenix on draft night, is expected to be in the lineup for the Aussies.

"I played with Aron Baynes for two years with the Celtics and he was one of my favorite guys to play with, favorite people," Tatum said. "So I'm excited to play against him, for a change."

There will be other familiar ties during the U.S.-Australia games.

Among them: U.S. guard Donovan Mitchell and Australia guard Joe Ingles are teammates with the Utah Jazz, Australian center Andrew Bogut has been coached by U.S. assistant Steve Kerr when they're together with Golden State, and U.S. coach Gregg Popovich will likely be seeing one of his longtime San Antonio players Patty Mills in uniform for the Australians.

Popovich sees Australia as threat

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Team USA coach Gregg Popovich sees Australia as a title threat at the upcoming World Cup in China.

He'll soon find out how much of a threat when the teams meet Thursday in the first of two exhibition games in Melbourne. A record Australian basketball crowd of 50,000 is forecast for the match at Marvel Stadium. The second game is set for Saturday.

''Huge, huge threat," Popovich said of the Boomers. ''They are one of the teams that can win the whole thing, without a doubt. I'm not saying that because I'm here. It's just a fact."

''They've been close for several years, and they are hungry. They are talented. They have the toughness and physicality to go with it. I think they are one of the top contenders without a doubt."

Australia, led by Patty Mills, who is coached by Popovich at San Antonio, lost the bronze medal final at the 2016 Olympics to Spain.

The U.S. team is thin on superstars, with only Kemba Walker, Khris Middleton and Brook Lopez combining for five NBA All-Star appearances in comparison to their last Olympics squad which had 33.

But Walker, who last month joined Boston after eight seasons in Charlotte, said criticism of the U.S. team was spurring them on ahead of its title defense in China.

''We don't care —we want to be here and are putting in the time to be here and we definitely take that as motivation," Walker said Wednesday. ''We have a bunch of guys who don't mind being the underdogs. We are hungry and we are going to go out there to try and win a gold medal."

Walker said he, Utah Jazz star Donovan Mitchell and Celtics guard Marcus Smart would share the captaincy duties as part of a leadership group.

''I take pride in being a leader and guys looking to me and I'm here to set the tempo and bring my experience and energy," he said.

Australia, meanwhile, hopes to end 55 years of losses against the U.S. The Americans have won all 25 games against Australia since 1964.

Browns not clowns, maybe title contenders

CLEVELAND (AP)—Those rabid, barking Browns fans have suffered in sadness longer than any group in the NFL, bar none.

They've never watched their team play in the Super Bowl, haven't experienced the playoffs since 2002 or bundled up and attended a postseason home game in 25 winters. There's a faction of the orange-and-brown backers who remain bitter about late owner Art Modell moving the franchise to Baltimore. The expansion era has been beyond torturous: two decades of disgrace, despair and dysfunction.

Like this proud city, which has taken its share of lumps over the years, Cleveland's beloved team has been a national punchline.

Well, the joke might be on someone else this time.

An array of potent offensive weapons surrounding fiery second-year quarterback Baker Mayfield is joined by an imposing defensive front four led by super freak end Myles Garrett. The Browns, who went 0-16 just two years ago and have symbolized professional incompetence—29 starting QBs, 11 coaches in 20 years—are expected by many not only to contend this season but perhaps compete for their first league title in 55 years.

It's about time.

"I'm excited for the direction we're moving in," said star wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr., whose arrival in March via a stunning trade with New York Giants has lifted the collective psyche of this football-frenzied region. "I can see it. I can feel it from the fans. I can feel it from this team."

AP

Cleveland Browns wide receiver Derrick Willies (84) makes a catch for a touchdown in front of Indianapolis Colts cornerback Jalen Collins (32) and defensive back Rolan Milligan (42) during the second half of an NFL preseason football game in Indianapolis, Saturday, Aug. 17, 2019.

Once ignored, the Browns have become the league's trendiest team, this season's favorite flavor.

And it all starts with Mayfield, the 2018 No. 1 overall pick who began last season as Tyrod Taylor's backup and finished it breaking Peyton Manning's league rookie record for touchdown passes.

Equal parts brash and boyish, Mayfield officially took over in Week 4 and went 6-7 as a starter while completing 64 percent of his passes, exuding the swagger that has driven him since his youth.

The 24-year-old has restored hope into the most cynical of Browns fans, who waited patiently for the team to find its long-term answer at the game's most critical position.

"I think that I was born to play here," he said.

Beckham feels reborn with the Browns, who landed the three-time Pro Bowler famous for spectacular one-handed catches and silly off-field drama. Reunited with his close friend and former LSU teammate Jarvis Landry, Beckham, who has been slowed by injuries the past two seasons, claims he has put New York's skyline in his rearview mirror.

"I'm just happy to be here," he said.

In Cleveland. Where football is finally back.

Rookie coach

A year ago, Freddie Kitchens was in the background, teaching Browns running backs before an eight-game stint as offensive coordinator changed his life.

He was hired in January as Cleveland's new coach, the club's sixth in 10 years. Kitchens had a significant role in Mayfield's first-year success, and he's already under pressure to win. But the affable 44-year-old, barrel-chested Alabamian, who has bounced around the coaching circle, isn't concerned about the huge expectations heaped on his team.

"I am going to coach them like I coached them at Glenville State College," he said. "I truly believe it is just hype. That is all it is."

Kitchens must hope owners Dee and Jimmy Haslam remain patient, and his team stays healthy.

Browns bromance

Beckham and Landry often talked in college about playing together in the pros. Well, the dream became reality and the duo gives the Browns maybe the most lethal 1-2 receiving punch in the league.

"Scary," Landry said.

Beckham has been slowed during the exhibition season by an unspecified hip injury, but the Browns are confident he'll be ready for the opener against Tennessee.

"Odell is Odell," said safety Damarious Randall. "He's a once-in-a-generation type of talent. He will be ready to go Sept. 8."

Steady rise

Warning to quarterbacks and offensive linemen: Myles Garrett may be hazardous to your health. The 6-foot-5, 280-pounder is leaner—and maybe a little meaner— entering his third season.

He had 13 ½ sacks in 2018, but that was before general manager John Dorsey added former Pro Bowlers Olivier Vernon and Sheldon Richardson up front.

"He's a beast," cornerback Denzel Ward said of the No. 1 overall draft pick of 2017. "I saw him like that last year. I thought he was the biggest and fastest guy, and for him to say he's the biggest and fastest this year is even crazier."

Thomas to keep eye on 2 sets of scores at East Lake

ATLANTA (AP)—The PGA Tour wanted a format that eliminated two winners on Sunday at East Lake the Tour Championship and the FedEx Cup. The new system means whoever has the lowest score to par wins the FedEx Cup.

In the eyes of some players, that might not be enough.

Justin Thomas lived it two years ago when he capped off his best year by capturing the FedEx Cup with a runner-up finish in the Tour Championship. Thomas was thrilled to win the cup and its $10 million prize, but felt like a loser in the immediate aftermath because he was second in the Tour Championship to Xander Schauffele.

As the No. 1 seed, he starts Thursday at 10-under par with a two-shot lead under the staggered start. It's possible that Thomas could finish the most under par and win the FedEx Cup, even though he doesn't have the lowest 72-hole score.

And yes, he will be paying attention.

"You guys probably won't believe me, but, yeah, it will irk me," Thomas said of such a scenario. "I want to beat everybody every week I play."

He thought back to 2017, when he won five times, including his first major. Tiger Woods, Vijay Singh and Nick Price were the only players in his lifetime to win six times in a PGA Tour season, and Thomas wanted to be on that list.

"I was (ticked), to be perfectly honest, that I didn't win," Thomas said. "I think a lot of people were shocked and a little upset about how I handled just winning FedEx Cup and $10 million. But, I was like, 'Man, I lost a golf tournament by one and I didn't birdie 18, a par 5.' And I felt like I should have won the tournament. ... My competitive nature is never going to be OK with losing by one, even if I get a consolation—a really, really good consolation at that."

Player of the Year

Ballots will go out to players Monday to vote on PGA Tour player of the year, and it would seem to be an easy choice.

Brooks Koepka has won three times this year, including a major (PGA Championship) and a World Golf Championship (FedEx St. Jude Invitational). He has been No. 1 in the world since May 19 and most likely will stay there the rest of the way. He won the money title. Along with his PGA Championship title, he was runner-up at the Masters and U.S. Open, and tied for fourth in the British Open.

Rory McIlroy is at least trying to make a case.

By winning the FedEx Cup this week, he officially would have three wins, including The Players Championship. McIlroy already has 13 top 10s out of the 18 times he has played on the PGA Tour, making this is most consistent year on tour.

"Brooks won a major and competed in all the other ones, as well," McIlroy said. "But I think it goes back to what's the player of the year rewarding? Is it rewarding a few weeks? If I were to play well or win this week, it would be my 14th top 10. I feel like I've been very consistent."

Then he paused and smiled.

"It's like I'm sitting up here trying to make an argument for myself to win," McIlroy said. "But if that were the case and I wasn't to win, I would understand why Brooks would still ... he's had a lot of other great golf and great finishes. So I'd completely understand if people went that way."

Koepka has three wins and three runner-up finishes among his eight top 10s.

Money matters

McIlroy is closing in on $50 million in career earnings on the golf course, and that's only from the PGA Tour.

Money doesn't drive him.

It was different when he first turned pro at 18. He recalls finishing in a tie for 42nd at the British Masters in 2007, his professional debut, and earning 15,128 euros. The next week, he was third in the Dunhill Links and won 211,322 euros. The next week, he won 41,580 euros for his tie for fourth in Madrid.

"And then I got home, and I went to get money out of the ATM—18 years old, I have a debit card," he said. "Put it in the ATM, and it's like, 'Would you like to check your balance?' I checked my balance, and I was like, 'Oh, wow.' I went straight to the jewelry store and bought myself a watch."

Justin Thomas never paid close attention to money, except for the 2014 season when he was on the developmental tour and received an exemption to the Memorial. He was going along well in the final round until a double bogey on the last hole sent him from a tie for 19th to a tie for 37th.

IT&E Light, Saipan Adventure win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Adventure and IT&E Light earned contrasting victories in the make-up games in the 2019 One Pacific Promotional Basketball League last Wednesday at the Civic Center Court in Susupe.

IT&E Light pounded Light & Salt in the first rescheduled game, 84-56, while Saipan Adventure eked out a 55-51 triumph over Docomo Pacific in the second match.

Ahead by 14 after the third period, 54-40, IT&E Light showed no mercy and continued to hammer Light & Salt in the fourth quarter to complete the rout. Aaron Pamintuan started IT&E Light's demolition of Light & Salt in the final canto after knocking in three straight triples. IT&E Light's 30 points in the fourth frame was the team's biggest output in a quarter.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IT&E Light players and their muse pose for a photo during the opening of the 2019 One Pacific Promotional Basketball League early this month at the Civic Center Court in Susupe.

Pamintuan was one of the four IT&E players to score in twin digits in their 28-point victory after logging 17 points. Kevin Nuguid led IT&E with his 22 markers, while Jaymark De Guzman and Juliene Gotengco chipped in 16 and 11, respectively, to hand their team its second straight win and third overall in four matches.

Siblings Rommel and Mico Usi had 13 points each for Light & Salt, which has yet to win in three games.

Meanwhile, Saipan Adventure also notched victory No. 3 after beating Docomo (1-2).

Alex Ocampo and Alvin Almario hit clutch baskets to help Saipan Adventure escape with a 4-point win. The two players scored 8 of Saipan Adventure's last 9 points. Almario finished the game with 20 markers, while Ocampo had 10.

First Game

IT&E Light 84—Nuguid 22, Pamintuan 17, De Guzman 16, Gotengco 11, Henry 6, Dequito 2, Palacios 2, Aglipay 2, Madreo 2.

Light & Salt 56—R. Usi 13, M. Usi 13, Natividad 8, Embile 6, Bautista 4, Claveria 4, Laxamana 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-11, 33-21, 54-40, 84-56.

Second Game

Saipan Adventure 55—Almario 20, Ocampo 10, Mungcal 7, Alipio 6, Verdiflor 4, Flores 2, Singca 2, Morales 2.

Docomo Pacific 51—Diaz 23, Deleon Guerrero 20, Lucas 5, Hayes 3.

Scoring by quarters:15-17, 28-25, 40-39, 55-51.

Ol'Aces to host basketball tournament

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Ol'Aces will be holding the Ol'Aces Alumni Basketball Tournament in celebration of their 45th anniversary.

The competition is tentatively set to open on Aug. 28 and will be held at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Matches will run from Monday to Thursday and will feature three divisions: co-ed 15 and under (latte stone division), open (classic division), and masters 4x4 (legends division). In the legends division, players must be over 40 or be considered a recreational player. Acceptance of players will be at the discretion of the league commissioner.

Non-Ol'Aces members will be charged $10 for entry fees, while members or alumni will only pay $5. Players must be registered before they are allowed to participate in the tournament. Registration must be completed by filling out application and waiver forms and settling player fees.

Since games are just recreational, all winners will only receive perpetual trophies, which teams will have to defend the following season. No individual awards will be given out to promote team camaradie.

The latte stone and classic divisions will both have 5x5 formats with each game to be played in 20 minutes (running time). Clock stoppage starts in the last two minutes. All teams will play three matches every playing night.

For the 4x4 halfcourt games in the legends division, each match will be 10 minutes with clock stoppage on every deadball and a 16-second shot clock.

AK

From Page 32

points in the fourth quarter, as he muscled his way into the paint to hit point-blank shots and help AK Toyota gain more cushion against Mystique after holding just a 5-point lead at the end of the third, 57-52.

De Guzman, on the other hand, did the damage in the second and third frames where he logged 14 markers, while Lauron took care of business in the first after registering 8 points.

With Lauron, De Guzman, and Fitial on the floor, plus Atkins Kroll vice president and general manager Clark Boswell coming off the bench, AK outrebounded Mystique, 53-24. AK, which lost its debut (against The Game) last week, moved the ball well in its second match in the 10-team league, resulting to 30 assists against the 20 of Mystique.

Backing up AK Toyota's big men on offense was Jedial Manalo, who also finished in twin digits with his 12 points, while Jeffrey Borja had an all-around game, recording 7 points, 7 assists, and 7 rebounds.

On the Mystique's side, Joseph Torres was the lone bright spot on the team after firing a game-high 25. Jerald Rivera was the only other double-figure for Mystique after tallying 11 points, but had only 2 points in the fourth quarter.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Atkins Kroll Toyota's Kelvin Fitial, center, drives against Mystique BBQ's Mii Tekopua, left, during the fourth quarter of their game in the Atkins Kroll Marianas International Basketball League last Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Caravan's 74, Bridge Capital 68

Caravan's had a winning debut after outclassing Bridge Capital in the second game.

Josh Andrew and Ken Viray teamed up in giving Caravan's a good start in the inaugural league with the former scoring 20 points and the latter adding 20. Sid Quan contributed 12 markers, including 8 in the fourth quarter to keep Bridge Capital at bay after it threatened Caravan's, cutting the deficit to 3 in the third, 56-59.

Earlier in the first half, Viray finished the opening 20 minutes of play with 13 points, while Andrew chipped in 10, giving Caravan's a 43-34 advantage.

Bridge Capital fell behind in the first half, as its gunners could not get their offensive game going with Matt Duenas limited to two field goals and 5 points and Freddie Pelisamen held to a deuce. Pete Lizama, Leeroy Rangamar, and C.J. Teregeyo tried to keep Bridge Capital afloat, as they combined for 17 points in the first half.

After a so-so performance in the first half, Duenas stepped up in the penultimate canto with his 12 points, while Rangamar knocked in two triples and scored 8 to bring Bridge Capital within 3, going into the fourth canto. However, Bridge Capital failed to surpass Caravan's in the fourth, as Quan hit enough baskets to keep his team in the lead. Duenas, after his double-digit output in the third, was neutralized in the fourth and logged only 2 points.

Meanwhile, three more teams will play their first game in the league tomorrow. Ms. Villagomez will take on IT&E Explorers in the first match at 6pm, while Aqua Resort Club will duel TanHoldings, which lost in the opener against Saipan Vegas.

First Game

AK Toyota 78—De Guzman 16, Lauron 16, Fitial 13, Manalo 12, Borja 7, Boswell 6, Catalla 2, Francis 2.

Mystique 68—Torres 25, Rivera 11, Candel 6, Moises 5, Broncano 4, Bernardo 4, Casbin 3, Tekopua 2, Gaviola 2, Castillo 2, Jandoc 2, Natividad 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-21, 40-35, 57-52, 78-68.

Second Game

Caravan's 74—Andrew 22, Viray 20, Quan 12, Peters 7, Tenorio 4, Standish 3, Tudela 3, Rasa 3, Rotap 2.

Bridge Capital 68—Rangamar 18, M. Duenas 17, Rogolifoi 8, Lizama 6, Teregeyo 5, Pelisamen 4, E. Duenas 2, M. Duenas 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-13, 43-34, 59-56, 74-68.

CAROL

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quarterfinals berth after stunning No. 2 seed Natasha Russell, 7-6 (3), 4-6, 7-6 (3) and ousting Japan's Manami Ukita, 6-3, 7-6(4). Symons, on the other hand, won over fellow Aussie Jasmine Adams, 6-2, 6-3, and Malaysia's Anja Nayar, 6-4, 6-2.

At the lower half of the draw, the quarterfinalists were Stevens, China's Zongyu Li, Malaysia's Sarah Nayar, and No. 2 seed Olivia Gadecki of Australia.

Meanwhile, Lee is also in the quarterfinals of the doubles event after she and Li eased past Australia's Jessica Jade Haylo and Hana Sonton, 6-1, 6-1. Next up for the No. 1 see Lee and Li are Adams and Mataia, who prevailed against compatriot Charlotte Kempenaers-Pocz and New Zealand's Yang, 6-4, 6-1.

AGAPE

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weights equipment.

Pang said they decided to construct the gymnasium to encourage ACS students to get active and motivate them to train better for basketball and volleyball leagues. They also want their church members to get active and utilize the gym and allow the local community an opportunity to use a state-of-the-art gym.

"Facilities on Saipan are very limited, there is only one public indoor gym (Ada Gymnasium). I know Northern Marianas College and Marianas High School had their own but after the typhoon, everything was gone. So, I was thinking, this is for our students, first, and the church members, and also maybe first-come, first-serve booking for the community," he said.

Pang added that the facility can be utilized to hold events for the 2021 Pacific Mini Games and other regional competitions.

Inspiration

Meanwhile, the Agape official said he was inspired by Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan and his commitment to developing soccer in the CNMI when the latter built the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Pang said he wanted to complete the indoor gymnasium so ACS students could continue to train in basketball, volleyball, and even badminton.

"Just like Jerry Tan, who wanted to develop football, he had to build a field in Koblerville. Without these facilities, how can you have proper games and proper training? This facility will encourage students to play sports, improve their health as a whole, and raise the standard for the students playing basketball, volleyball, and badminton," he said.

Although the facility will be open for public use, Pang said they will charge minimal fees for maintenance and power consumption.

"I'm open to having people come in, but at the same time, we have to maintain it. We need a proper booking system and whichever teams come to use the gym, they can chip in. We need to maintain the power, the floor, and equipment. I also have workers to help clean the facility, because I want our building and equipment to last at least 30 years," he said.

Harper, Dickerson help Phillies beat Red Sox

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For Celtics, USA World Cup camp is a preseason bonus

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AK Toyota bounces back

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Atkins Kroll Toyota's Clark Boswell, right, takes off for a shot against Mystique BBQ's Mii Tekopua, second left, and Ronald Bernardo during the fourth quarter of their game in the Atkins Kroll Marianas International Basketball League last Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Atkins Kroll Toyota quickly recovered from its debut loss after topping Mystique BBQ, 78-68, in the first game in the Atkins Kroll Marianas International Basketball League last Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Big men Alex Lauron, George De Guzman, and Kelvin Fitial delivered for AK Toyota, as all three scored in double figures, asserting their might against the much smaller Mystique frontliners to make easy baskets in the paint and dominate the rebounds department. Lauron and De Guzman recorded 16 points apiece and combined for 12 rebounds, while Fitial added 13 markers and 8 rebounds.

Fitial posted 9 of his total

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Carol Lee is in Australia and made it to the quarterfinals of the singles and doubles events of an ITF Juniors World Tour event in New South Wales.

Carol marches into quarterfinals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Carol Lee made it to the quarterfinals of the singles event in the 2019 Oceania Closed Junior Championships after sweeping her first two matches in the 2019 Australian Winter International in Tweed Heads, New South Wales.

Lee first topped Australia's Cyan Sun last Wednesday, 6-1, 6-4, and then defeated Jessie Culley, also from the Land Down Under, in the second round yesterday, 6-3, 6-4, to reach the Round of 8.

The No. 1 seed will play in the quarterfinals today against No. 6 Talia Gibson, a familiar foe for the CNMI bet. The Australian eliminated Lee in the semifinals of the 2019 Oceania Closed Junior Championships last week, foiling the latter's bid for a return trip to the finals of the Grade 2 tournament in Fiji.

The Australian Winter International is also a Grade 2 event that awards 160 and 120 ranking points to the singles and doubles champions, respectively.

Gibson, who lost to her compatriot, Amy Stevens, in the finals in Fiji, arranged another duel with Lee after also prevailing in her first two games in the Australian Winter. Gibson won her all-Aussies tiff against Cassidy Mataia, 6-2, 6-3, and then slipped past New Zealand's Vivian Yang, 2-6, 6-2, 6-1, to set a quarterfinal date with Lee.

The winner in the Lee-Gibson encounter will move into the semis against the victor in the match between unseeded Mia Repac and Olivia Symons at the upper half of the draw. Repac notched a

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Agape to complete indoor gym by September

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Agape Christian School's indoor gymnasium is scheduled to be completed by September and will feature state-of-the-art equipment that is open for public use.

Agape Pastor Kok H. Pang said the gymnasium has been in construction for nearly two years now and will open in time for the new school year and school leagues.

"It will be completed in two or three weeks' time so by September we should be able to use it already," he said.

Pang estimated the cost of the construction of the facility at around $800,000. He added that funding to build the gymnasium and purchase equipment came from years of savings and donations from church members.

According to the Agape administrator, the facility will include heavy-duty basketball hoops that are fastened to the ceiling, portable volleyball nets and poles, badminton mats, ping pong tables, and

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KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Four basketball hoops are in placed at the Agape Christian School's indoor gymnasium, which is undergoing construction and will be completed by next month.